Hitler's Secret Sciences

HIS QUEST FOR THE HIDDEN KNOWLEDGE OF THE ANCIENTS

by Nigel Pennick

NIGEL PENNICK

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THE MYSTERIES OF KING'S COLLEGE CHAPEL
TERRESTRIAL ZODIACS IN BRITAIN
THE ANCIENT SCIENCE OF GEOMANCY
SACRED GEOMETRY
THE SUBTERRANEAN KINGDOM

Dedication

This book is dedicated to all sincere followers of
the earth mysteries: may they never put their discoveries
in the service of evil.

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INTRODUCTION

The Nazi phenomenon was a weird and tragic episode in world history whose dire effects still reverberate today. For a brief twelve years, dangerous authoritarian occult principles became a world political force, for the Nazis' avowed intent was nothing short of the complete transformation of the human world. Their revolution was to be so radical that it aimed to recast the whole of future civilization in its own distorted image. Although National Socialism, to give it its correct title, was the ultimate refinement of Prussian militarism, it had one important extra dimension – it was messianic; not the universal messianism of the Christian or Islamic creeds, however, but an elitist messianism based upon race. The whole Nazi ethos grew out of a magical view of the world, and the history of Nazi Germany was forged by strange fanatics whose actions can only be explained in occult terms. To orthodox historians, their crimes can only be dismissed as crazy obsessions, yet in terms of certain well-established occult beliefs, they fit a well-defined pattern.

Far from being just another political doctrine, Naziism was nothing less than a deliberate magical attempt to alter the world. Racial supremacy, the much-vaunted 'destiny' of the Nazis, was not the final aim of their programme. The creation of a new race of supermen, a biological mutation to a higher level of being, was their aim. The. new man, the result of selective breeding, equipped with psychic powers, would push forward the frontiers of a new civilization based on a magical technology several orders of sophistication above the clumsy techniques of the present. The new superman, so they believed, would finally transcend the human condition – he would gain unlimited power over the universe and win immortality. He would become a god.

But before this new superman could emerge on Earth,

occultism taught the Nazis that the ground had to be cleared of the *untermensch* – 'sub-humanity'. It was not enough just to remove civic rights from these people, mainly Jews and Gypsies, claimed Nazi occultists, it was necessary to remove them completely from their contact with the 'holy soil' of the Reich, for their existence was seen as physically hindering the physical manifestation of the new man.

This view of history may seem startling to materialists who see market forces or geopolitics as the driving forces behind events. Yet there is no shortage of evidence to prove my contention: although the strands of evidence are diverse and culled from many obscure sources, as they have gradually accumulated I have found no fresh element to contradict the facts gathered before. The roots of Nazi occultism are there for anyone to see, their origins lurking in the esoteric traditions of 'fringe science', theosophy and mystical nationalism. It is from these traditions, not the cut-and-dried theories of professional historians that I come. Over the past two centuries, academic scholarship has made such a name for itself that people have been lulled into a sense of false confidence in its all-embracing infallibility. Almost without saying, people assume that every existing object, book, document and event has been catalogued by official wisdom and taken into account in the academic world-view. Yet this is not the case. From the evidence of the ages we can find not just one but several parallel traditions. In the occult tradition, arcane lore has been handed down from master to disciple for century upon century without ever being revealed to all and sundry. We hear too of certain hidden books, works and objects which have never fallen beneath the public scrutiny of the academics. The secret books of the German Vehm or 'Secret Tribunal', *The Red Tower* and *The Dortmund Codex* are nowhere to be found. Likewise the alchemical *Shropshire Manuscript,* the *Secret Archives* of the Duke of Medinacelli and *The Prophecies of Old Michael O'Leary* recur in literature but never surface to the light of day. Some of them may be no more; vague memories of lost masterpieces. Others may yet be hidden in the inaccessible libraries of the Vatican, the Kremlin or Westminster Abbey. Whatever the reality of *these* documents, Nazi occultists were deeply interested in all obscure manuscripts. They carefully

investigated all the ancient archives they plundered in their rampage across Europe in a search for some further knowledge which could aid their creation of the 'New Order'.

Amongst this welter of half-forgotten occult lore resurrected by the Nazis was the physical control of nations by means of the ancient science of geomancy which some call 'earth magic'. In ancient times, they found, a nation's most sacred place was also invariably its seat of government. Possession of this sacred place, the psychic centre of the nation, meant dominion over it. Surviving legends and folklore recount how a battle would rage for the control of a holy place, then suddenly, as it fell to the conqueror, all resistance would cease. Once the psychic centre was taken, then all resistance was futile. The country had magically fallen to a conqueror. Such a legend is associated with the Tower of London, and Tara, seat of the ancient High Kings of Ireland.

The Nazis pursued this idea with alacrity. Although the concept of magical control over countries by capturing their sacred sites had long been discarded as impossible by 'rationalist' thinkers, Nazi occultists were not interested in 'rationalist' thought. Originating in the independent research of individuals, later appropriated as the orthodox belief of officially-sanctioned organizations, the whole science of geomancy finally became an essential magical tool in the conquest of Europe. Steeped in the archaic lore of India and Persia, and encompassing occult systems from ancient Germany and Tibet, the inner order of National Socialism fabricated an applied magical technology precisely tailored to their ideological position. Researchers into the fields of folklore, ancient history, archaeology, astronomy, astrology, symbolism and radiesthesia were gathered together to synthesize a peculiarly 'Aryan' science and religion to serve the New Order of National Socialism. Unlike magical systems before and since, this new occult system was based neither upon the Judaeo-Christian Qabalah nor upon traditional Freemasonry, but upon a reinterpretation of the Pagan magic of pre-Christian Germany, the Aryan solar cult of Ahura Mazda and various ideas of nineteenth-century unofficial science.

It is saddeningly unfortunate that such a thoroughly pernicious political system should espouse with such wholehearted

fervour the study and application of unofficial science. Dowsing, magnetism, astrology, occult meditation, alternative cosmology and geomancy were woven into the very fabric of Nazi thought to such an extent that even forty years later people cannot think of many of these subjects without their political context. Yet the use or misuse of science in its widest meaning does not invalidate the principles, which even today can be studied and expanded. For the gaining of knowledge of any sort brings with it the awesome responsibility to use it for good and not for evil; to promote life, not death; freedom, not slavery; to construct and not to destroy. The-frontiers of a new civilization may yet arise on the knowledge so grudgingly dismissed as 'the occult'. Let us learn from the Nazi misuse of these powers and not dismiss the good with the evil.

CHAPTER ONE

The Hidden Tradition – The Secret Vehm

Germany has a long tradition of powerful occult societies. Since the Dark Ages, the authorities have often seen fit to use arcane sects as unpaid secret police to keep dissidents and heretics in check. From the time of Charlemagne (AD 772) until the fall of Naziism (1945), numerous shadowy societies have flitted through the penumbras of German society exacting a hideous price for their existence. Of all these occult bodies, the longest lived and perhaps the most feared was the Secret Tribunal.

The Secret Tribunal went under various names. It was known as *Geheimgericht* (Secret Tribunal), *Tugendbund* (Alliance for the Promotion of Virtue), or *Stillgericht* (Silent Tribunal); but more commonly *Fehm-*, *Behm-* or *Vehmgericht*, an archaic name of doubtful origin. Some believe that it derives from *Fahne* (flag), the emblem of power, or the Old Teutonic word *Vehen* (peculiar, set apart). James Skene, a Scottish authority on the *Vehmgericht*, wrote in 1824, "I am more inclined to agree with the opinion of those who think it derived from *Baeume Gericht* (Tree Law) as the trees constituted the only ostensible circumstance of its existence, and afforded the first and only indication to the world of its proceedings, by unhappy victims that were found hanged upon them."

The code of this Secret Vehm was published in the *Reichstheater* of Muller under the verbose title *The Code and Statutes of the Holy Secret Tribunal of Free Counts and Free Judges of Westphalia, established in the year 772 by the Emperor Charlemagne and revised in 1404 by King Robert, who made those alterations and additions requisite for the administration of Justice in the tribunals of the Illuminated, after investing them with his own authority.* According to the French occultist Eliphas

Lévi: "the word 'illuminated' here given to the associates of the Secret Tribunal, unfolds their entire mission: they had to track down in the shadows those who worshipped the darkness; they counterchecked mysteriously those who conspired against society in favour of mystery; but they were themselves secret soldiers of light, who cast the light of day on criminal proceedings".

According to tradition, the *Vehm* originated after the conquest of Saxony in 772 AD by the Emperor Charlemagne. Having subdued the Saxons after a bloody war lasting 33 years, the emperor instituted a reign of terror against Pagans, enforced by the Secret Tribunal. In order to pacify the Saxon lands, he deported 30,000 Saxons across the Rhine and replaced them by a similar number of Christian Gauls. The district of Germany where they settled became known as West Gaul or West Wales, soon corrupted into Westphalia. The heads of these Gaulish families were charged with suppressing the Pagans and terrorizing them into submission. For years, Saxons would daily find in woods, stables, barns, their own houses, cellars, and even in the streets of towns the hanging bodies of their countrymen who had transgressed against the law of Charlemagne.

But when the Pagans had finally been cowed into submission, and the purpose of the *Vehm* had been achieved, the power it afforded its members was found too valuable to discard, and the organization went underground. The Secret Tribunal continued to exist as a mysterious power which was directed to the suppression of crime, Paganism, witchcraft and dissent. For centuries it remained illegal, but in the fourteenth century the *Vehm* again officially reared its ugly head. From the coincidence of time, this revival may have been connected with the suppression of the Knights Templar which had taken place immediately before tlie 'revival'. Whatever the reason for its sudden reappearance, the Secret *Vehm* for the first time openly included high-ranking church officials. One of the tides of the Archbishop of Cologne, for example, was *Stadtholder of the Holy Secret Tribunal.* Collectively, the members of the *Vehm* were known as *Die Wissenden* – The Illuminati. A double meaning attached to the name, as *Witze* is the Old Teutonic word for punishment.

Like many magical orders, the *Vehm* had three grades of initiation. The ordinary initiates were *Schöffen;* its officers *Freigrafen,* and the leader was the *Stuhlherr.* Claiming the right of summary retribution from wrongdoers in the name of honour and the common good, the hooded members of the Secret Tribunal assembled sometimes in gloomy dungeons, as at Nuremberg, but more often in the open at sacred geomantic sites outside town boundaries.

The *Schöffen* were the functionaries of the order. They assisted in the brief deliberations of the court, denounced the accused and carried out the speedy and summary execution. They never made use of a gallows. It was their traditional practice to hang their victims upon lime trees, generally with a rope of willow twigs, not of hemp, as that material was forbidden by ancient law. According to the German sacred geographer Josef Heinsch, these lime trees were invariably sited at geomantically-determined points, the knowledge of which survived in oral tradition until the Second World War.

The powers of the *Schöffen* were wide. They were permitted to exact summary executions on any miscreant caught in the act. He could be hung from the nearest tree without trial; at the foot of the tree, the executioners stuck a knife into the ground as a mark of their secret power, warning others that no enquiry should be made, under penalty of a similar fate. Upon this ceremonial dagger were inscribed the letters S.S.G.G., which were said to stand for *Strick, Stein, Gras, Grein* (Noose, Stone, Fear, Quarrel). Centuries later, the letters SS would appear on the daggers of other men committing summary executions.

Like many secret societies, the *Vehm* had its own internal rules and ceremonial. Initiated persons were held sacred. Such was their power that they could appear anywhere unarmed in the knowledge that Vehmic vengeance would descend upon any who should harm them. Their main centre was at Dortmund, which was known as *Die Krumme Grafschaft* (The Crooked Lordship). General Chapters of the *Vehm* were held there, or else at Avensberg or Sachsenhausen, later the site of a notorious Nazi concentration camp. Their rule was enshrined in a statute book bound in red, known as *The Red Tower.* Its whereabouts, if it still exists, is unknown. Another lost work of Vehmic secrets was called the *Dortmund Codex.* The name *The*

Red Tower is an Arthurian allegory, for it was in the Forest of the Red Tower that Perceval, the Grail Knight, discovered two knights hanging from a tree.

Only certain categories of crime were deemed Vehmical: heresy, apostacy, sacrilege, rape and violence to pregnant women, theft and robbery with Jews, murder, adultery, witchcraft and rebellion. A meeting of the *Vehm* decided whether or not a certain crime required their action. If the answer was yes, a summons was delivered in the dead of night by a hooded functionary. One recorded summons reads as follows: "Know, Graff Grunenberg, residing at Frankfurt, that thou standest indicted of a serious charge by Graff von Mulhusin, before the Secret Tribunal, and art hereby cited to appear next Tuesday, before my *Freystuhl* (free bench) under the lime trees at Lichtenfels" (signed) Johaan Laske, Freygraff von Lichtenfels.

Attendance was not voluntary. The victim would be kidnapped and brought before the Tribunal. At the start of each 'trial', the judge or *Stuhlherr* produced the *dag,* a strange emblem of office. This was a dagger which incorporated three blades in one. It was inscribed with a sunwheel and the letter V – an abbreviation for *Vehm* and the Roman numeral 5 – the number of Man and the number of knights who traditionally formed the first *Vehm.* The seal of the Secret Tribunal consisted of a clenched fist wielding the sword of justice, and its symbol was the thunder-broom, a symbolic swastika composed of eight overlapping square tiles which appeared on their standard – the *Rädleinsfahne.* Ominiously, the motto of the *Vehm* was *Reinier door Feueri* – Cleanse through Fire.

If the unfortunate did not attend the *Vehm,* any attempt at evasion was useless. The accused was a marked man, the *strick-kind,* child of the noose. If he fled, a summons was pasted on the four corners of his house, and the hunt began. When a person fled, he was tried in his absence and his name was inscribed in blood in *The Red Tower.* Wherever or whenever he was discovered, it was then the duty of any member to assassinate him. This was *die Heimliche Acht* – the Secret Prescription.

Punishment at the hands of die *Vehm* was ostensibly in defence of Church and Empire. Of course, in practice, this

reign of terror enabled members to settle scores, exterminate rivals and generally rule the roost. The authorities either turned a blind eye to the excesses, or actively encouraged them. At one General Chapter held in Dortmund, called *Der Spiegel* (The Mirror), presided over by the Emperor Sigismund, there were upward of one thousand *Schöffen* present in addition to all the *Freigrafen* and *Stuhlherren.* Later attempts by Emperors to suppress die *Vehm* met with little success, but finally, with the evolution of society, the *Vehm* transformed itself into other, more political, occult groupings. The last *Freigraf,* Zacharias Lobbecke, died in 1826 at the advanced age of 99. By that time, the *Vehm* was but a bad memory. It was not to be revived until political extremists of this century took it as a model for their own acts of terror. But before that could happen, the ancient heresies so long opposed by the *Vehm* were to undergo a massive revival.

Occult Heresies

One of the most persistent and persecuted of Christian heresies was that of Manes, a teacher who lived in Persia in the 3rd century AD. Manes was the founder of the Manichaean Heresy, which fused the mysteries and religion of Zoroaster with the teachings of Jesus Christ. The Magi, priests of the Light God Ahura Mazda, had sought out the baby Jesus and are remembered as the 'Three Kings of Orient'. Manes' followers were Magi who took the Christian faith and migrated to Syria to set up their own sect. There they remained until the Crusader era, when a group of them, pursued by the Saracens near Bastrum, were rescued by Templar knights. Going under the protection of the Templars, these mystic priests soon joined up with their rescuers and handed over their secret knowledge. One offshoot of this group was to become the Cathars, to whom we will return later.

When the Knights Templar were suppressed by the Pope in 1314, a small band of escapees sought refuge in Scotland, where they founded a chapter at Aberdeen which became a forerunner of Scottish Freemasonry. Their first Prior, Petrus de Bononia, soon disseminated their teachings; first to Italy, then Sweden, Russia and Germany. The German branch

became known as the Johannes Brüder, the Brethren of St. John the Baptist (whose severed head had been worshipped as 'Baphomet' by the Templars). As the years passed, the Johannes Briider split to form the Benificent Knights of the Holy City, otherwise known as the Strict Observance. These Masonic groups practised a rite based on the Scottish tradition, which claimed to be ruled by secret masters in direct unbroken tradition from the Knights Templar and thus the Manichaeans.

In 1767, die Afrikanischen Bauherren (Order of the Architects of Africa) was established by King Frederick the Great of Prussia. Its main centre was the *Constantinople Lodge* at Berlin, where its initiates studied hieroglypics, the sciences, history and antiquities, and the Manichaean Mysteries. Connected with this group was an inner order, *The Knights of Light,* whose secrets were divulged by "Magister Pianco", Gottlieb Ephraim Weisse, in 1781. In *Der Rosenkreutzer in Seiner Blösse,* published in Amsterdam, he wrote: "the masters of the Second Secret were masters in the knowledge of All Nature, and her forces, her divisions… they had also secret sciences known only to the highest among them – called Magos, Mage, or The Wise Masters, who taught people divine things. He could do things which appeared quite supernatural…"

Frederick the Great, admired by Hitler as the greatest German of all time, was an avid student of the occult. In 1768 he commissioned his architect Meil to erect a building in Silesia for the Grand Chapter of Prussia, which he endowed with ample funds, rich furnishings and a choice library. Frederick's personal librarian at Berlin was a former Benedictine monk, Dom Antoine Joseph Pernetty, a man well versed in occult matters. Dieudonne Thiebault, his contemporary and a Professor at Berlin University, wrote that Pernetty believed in the Philosopher's Stone, the Mysteries of the Qabalah, apparitions, Patagonian Witcheries and the Race of Giants. Pernetty was in personal contact with the legendary Comte de Saint Germain. Later he left Germany to found the Académie des Illuminés d'Avignon, practising Swedish Rite Freemasonry.

Frederick the Great's Grand Lodge of Prussia claimed continuity with an ancient secret society, the World Wise Men. This 'White Lodge' is the same group of hidden masters described by Madame Blavatsky's Theosophical Society and

the German Thule Society from which many leading Nazis came. The Prussian Freemasons claimed that these World Wise Men were none other than the Carpocratians, a group of Christ's disciples to whom he communicated a secret science, transmitted afterwards to the Templars and thence via Scotland to the Swedish Rite Freemasons. One of the basic tenets ascribed the Carpocratians was an heretical belief in reincarnation. They were also traditionally endowed with the mastery of a mysterious power drawn from the Earth – *Vril.*

Members of both the *Vehm* and the *Knights of Light* were called *Die Wissenden* – The Illuminati. On May Day 1776, an actual group bearing this name was founded by the Professor of Canon Law at Ingoldstadt University, Adam Weishaupt. Many things have been written about Weishaupt and the Bavarian Illuminati, which existed for barely a decade. It has been claimed that this group originated the idea of "World Revolution" later taken up by the Communists. It has been said that the Illuminati infiltrated other German occult groups, the Rosicrucians, Freemasons and Jewish Qabalists, but it seems unlikely that one occult group among many should have acquired such power in such a short time. It is a fact, however, that the Bavarian-Illuminati were outlawed in 1785 as a threat to the state. This came about as the result of an amazing coincidence.

An Illuminatus named Hans Zwack had translated Weishaupt's original revolutionary notes into a book titled *Einige Original-Schriften,* and a copy of the work had been despatched to French Illuminist Masons who were fomenting revolution. The courier, an Illuminatus named Lanze, was struck by lightning (or something like lightning!) as he rode through Regensburg on his way to Paris. Although Lanze was reduced to a charred mass, the documents he carried remained untouched. They came into the hands of the police authorities, who immediately informed the government of Bavaria that a secret society was plotting to overthrow the social order. Police raids on the homes of leading Illuminati uncovered papers which were said to prove a conspiracy, and the order was forcibly terminated. Lodges were closed, and lodges of Grand Orient Freemasonry which had connexions with Illuminati also found themselves abolished.

In 1786 details of the supposed conspiracy appeared in

English under the title *Original Writings of the Order and Sect of the Illuminati.* Shortly after the supposed suppression of the Illuminati in Germany, the French Revolution, vanguarded by the pseudo-Masonic Jacobins, carried out the programme advocated by Weishaupt.

Weishaupt's very identity remains problematical. His name can be interpreted symbolically as *Adam,* the first man; *weis,* knowing; and *haupt,* chief. The name thus means "the first man, chief of those who know". As Professor of Canon Law at Ingoldstadt, a Jesuit university which had educated the missionaries who laid out the missions in Arizona and California, Weishaupt may well have been the recipient of a secret doctrine. Whatever the truth, it seems that Weishaupt was the first to merge occultism with revolution.

Politics and occultism had been converging during the eighteenth century in Germany. As Weishaupt was hatching his Illuminst conspiracy, another occultist was spearheading the attack upon the Christian religion. This occult prophet was Johann Georg Hamann, a superpatriot who championed intuition against the nascent Age of Reason. A hypochondriac given to oracular pronouncements, Hamann engrossed himself in the Qabalistic writings of Jacob Böhme, and became celebrated as "The Magus of the North". His chaotic forays into print usually bore such emotive subtitles as *Hierophantic Letters* or *A Rhapsody in Kabbalistic Prose.*

From this occult background came a man who was to encapsulate the magical ideas of German nationalism, Hamann's pupil Johann Gottfried Herder. Hailing from Königsberg, capital of East Prussia, Herder studied under Hamann and the philosopher Immanuel Kant. His original thought was soon recognized and he seems to have had an almost messianic influence over his contemporaries. A friend writing to him in 1785 praised his works as "inspired by God".

Herder tried to give the Germans a new pride in their common past. He strove to abolish their high regard for Greek culture and replace it with an appreciation of Germanic culture, the art of Albrecht Dürer and Gothic architecture. But it is in his mystical writings that a new Pagan German nationalism appeared. Herder asserted that Germanness had been emasculated by Christianity, and that a revival of some

sort of National Pantheism was essential. In one telling passage he wrote, "Since according to the idea of the (Native) Americans, every river, every tree, every meadow has a spirit, should not the German mountains and rivers have one? Let someone, therefore, defend the national spirit… and show by examples mat Germany has since the earliest times had a fixed national spirit in all classes, still has it at the present time, and according to its organization will have it everlastingly."

Christianity preached the Brotherhood of Man, and so did the Illuminati. If these ideals were put into practice, argued Herder, then Germany and the German race would disappear for ever, absorbed into a homogenized humanity. Fears that internationalist secret societies might foment revolution were soon borne out in France. The revolution there, uprisings in Ireland and riots and mutinies in Britain led the crowned heads of Europe to fear the worst. In 1798 King Friedrich Wilhelm II of Prussia banned all secret societies save his own Ancient Prussian Masonic Lodge. For that he constructed a special belvedere in his Charlottenburg estate near Berlin.

Suppression of heresies and magical orders has always been a thankless task. By their very nature, such societies are clandestine, and when outlawed disappear only to rise up again under a different guise. Throughout the nineteenth century there was a never-ending succession of obscure occult groupings, each dedicated to the practice of their own peculiar version of the ancient wisdom. Amongst this welter of organizations, the themes of Nazi occultism can be traced. Writers like Edward Emil Eckert and Karl Rossler asserted that German Freemasonry was the continuation of the true Aryan faith of ancient Persia, transmitted by the Manichaeans, the Cathars, the Templars, Chivalric Orders, Scottish Rite Freemasons and the Johannes-Brüder through to their day. With Germany finally unified in 1871, and that era's obsession with biology, especially that of the human race, it was only a matter of time before all the elements should be fused into an occult German racism.

CHAPTER TWO

The Roots of Naziism

…we need pride, will, defiance, hate, hate and again, hate.
Adolf Hitler.

On January 18, 1871, in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles, King Wilhelm I of Prussia was crowned Emperor of Germany. Far from the German people, on conquered soil and in the midst of warfare, a momentous historical event was played out: the foundation of the Second German Reich. The symbolic birth of an empire on the ruins of another was without historical precedent. It was as if some divine hand had blessed Germany with victory and a new unity to carry out a great mission in Europe, the reconstruction of Teutonic civilization. Or at least, that was the way the Germans saw their triumph. But although the new Kaiser, former King of Prussia, had politically unified the formerly independent states of Germany, the German people still had no real cohesion, merely a common language. Local nationalism still took first place. Each German considered himself or herself a citizen of Saxony, Prussia, Bavaria etc., first, German second.

To overcome this potentially catastrophic state of affairs, the architects of the new Reich called upon historians, philosophers and myth-makers to weld together the German-speaking people as a true nation. In doing so, they brought together all of the nationalist obsessions of the mid-nineteenth century: ancient history, racial theory, folk religion and literature. As with the founding of any new nation, the historians of the Reioh tried to prove its historical pedigree,

turning to the earlier German Empire, the First Reich, for inspiration. They found in the First Reich an heroic concept of monarchy: die king as mystic hero vanquishing his, and the nation's, foes.

Between 1871 and 1918, the foundations of Hitler's inferno were laid. German historians like Kossinna strove to show the superiority of ancient German culture. Historians of his school delved into ancient records to prove that ancient Germanic civilization, far from being backward, had been equal to if not better than the classical civilizations of Greece and Rome. German archivists like Bottcher proved that ancient Germans had been expert surveyors, whilst German biologists extolled the 'superior nature' of the Teutonic Race. German scientists and engineers raised Germany to the pre-eminent position of the world's leading industrial nation, and German militarists built up the German army to be the toughest and best-equipped there was.

In 1914 the Great War began. Germans thought it would be only a matter of weeks before the 'superior' moral and military strength of the Reich would triumph, but it was not to be. Over four years of bloody deadlock ended during November 1918 in armistice, not victory.

On November 9th, 1918, the carefully-nutured traditions of the Kaiser's Reich came crashing down in revolution. Kaiser Wilhelm II was forced to abdicate and the unthinkable happened – Germany became a republic. All the old allegiances, to God, Kaiser, Fatherland and even to the Officer Corps became mockeries. The German army, which claimed to be unbeaten, returned from the front to be vilified by the populace at large. Anarchists, communists and other left-wing revolutionaries armed themselves ready for the overthrow of the state. Strikes, mutinies and insurrections became the order of the day. Soon street battles between the left, mainly workers, the unemployed and disaffected ex-servicemen, and the right, ex-officers and monarchists, became commonplace. Countless political murders, assassinations, attempted *putsches* and bombings alternated with riotous meetings, complete with private armies.

The republic's government, terrified that a Bolshevik revolution was imminent, secretly invited the Officer Corps to form

unofficial private armies – the *Freikorps* (Free Corps) – to suppress revolt. By 1919, these proto-fascist military bands had been organized and were put into action. Early in that year, a Soviet uprising in Berlin was successfully put down by the *Freikorps,* and Bavaria, which for a short time had a revolutionary socialist regime, was invaded by the *Freikorps* and 'cleansed' of the left.

The *Freikorps* was more than just a band of unruly soldiers. In the spring of 1919, the government, of die newly-independent state of Latvia was in dire straits. In the wake of the Russian revolution, revolutionists were in open rebellion and threatened to turn Latvia communist. In desperation, the government called on die German *Freikorps* to help them eradicate the 'red menace'. As an inducement to the troops, the Latvians appealed to the old German dream of a peasant Utopia. In return for service under their own officers in the Lativian *Landeswehr* for four months, the soldiers would be entitled to Latvian citizenship and ninety acres of land.

Lured by the promise of free land, thousands volunteered and painted die swastika – symbol of the Baltic *Freikorps* – on their steel helmets. Under German command, the *Landeswehr* smashed the communist forces, and the *Freikorps* took the capital, Riga. Every town taken by the Germans had been plundered, and revolutionaries, anti-Germans and Jews had been mercilessly slaughtered. Once in Riga, the atrocities began. Anyone suspected of communist or anti-German sympathies was court-martialled. Prisoners were shot in batches of fifty. Finally, die swastika-helmeted *Freikorps* was defeated at die Batde of Wenden by a combined force of Latvians and Lithuanians. The survivors were packed back to Germany, where they merged with other armed groups.

During the short victory of the *Freikorps* in Latvia, its officers had openly spoken of the Baltic States as colonies of a new Teutonic Order, a reassertion of the ancient Medieval *Ordenstaat* of the Teutonic Knights which had existed centuries before in the same area. The re-founding of this ancient feudal domain was to be attempted yet again a bare twenty years later by Himmler's notorious SS, many of whom were former *Landeswehr* soldiers.

As civil turmoif subsided in Germany, the Ehrhardt Brigade,

one of the most notorious of the *Freikorps* units, went underground. Banned by the government, it became the clandestine *Organization Consul* and performed murders in the conscious tradition of the ancient *Vehm.* Other connexions existed through an ever-changing network of semi-sporting societies, athletic clubs and cultural associations, such as the Steel Helmet League, Olympia Sport Association, Viking Society, Bismarck Union, Young German Order, Thule Society and Blücher Union. The estimated membership of these organizations was in excess of 750,000.

Organized terror extended throughout the nation. Members who told too much were sentenced to death, and most Vehmic murders went unpunished by the acquiescing authorities. Political murders continued through the early '20s. In June 1921, Garreis, a socialist government deputy, was assassinated at Munich. In August that year, two members of the Ehrhardt Brigade murdered another deputy, Erzberger. Next year Walter Rathenau, a prominent Jewish deputy who had organized German industrial production during the Great War, was the victim of the *Vehm.* Protests followed, but the commission set up to investigate the clandestine organization was soon subverted and turned against the left. As the bloodbath proceeded, fanatics of a dozen creeds plotted the overthrow of the shaky Social Democrat government and its replacement with a one-party state.

Among this miasma of disaffected fanatics was Adolf Hitler. Son of an Austrian customs official, he was born at Braunau-am-Inn, Austria, on April 20, 1889. The date may be significant, for April 20, 753 BC was by tradition the date of the foundation of Rome. In his teens, Hider had lived the 'bohemian' life in Vienna, where he studied art, architecture and occultism in the many fine public libraries. An avid reader of the anti-semitic pamphlets which circulated all over Europe in those days, Hitler merged the teachings of German racists with the then-new occultism of the Theosophical Lodges. Armed with this fledgling philosophy, he served in the German army in the Great War, where he was awarded the Iron Cross for bravery.

After the 1918 armistice, Hider made his way to Munich, where he became a police agent spying on secret societies.

Before long, he had – infiltrated the ranks of several occult-political groups which the authorities thought subversive. One day, his masters sent him along to a beer hall where a new group was holding a meeting. The organization was unknown to the police. It was called the German Workers' Party, and any party with die word *Worker* in its title was naturally suspected of being anarchist or communist. Hitler soon found out otherwise, and joined as member number 7. He was soon to impose his own creed on the party, re-naming it at the same time the National Socialist German Workers' Party, Nazi for short.

This party had strange origins, for unlike most extremist groups it was more mystical than political. Its driving force was Dietrich Eckart, a racist magician. Eckart, who lived from 1868 to 1923, was a poet, playwright and journalist before the Great War. Like Hitler, he was gassed in the trenches by the British, and had turned to morphine to overcome the pain. Becoming addicted, he also developed an alcoholic habit, which finally killed him.

In addition to his patronage of the German Workers' Party, Eckart was also a leading member of the Thule Society, a strange group which ostensibly sought the lost Nordic home-land of Thule, a sort of northern Adantis. As he lay dying of drink and drugs, Eckart prayed that the Thule Society would continue its mission and soon transform the nature of life on Earth. Eckart is said to have given a last death-bed address to his followers. In it he exhorted "Follow Hider. He will dance, but it is I who have called the tune. I have initiated him into the Secret Doctrine, opened his centres of vision and given him the means to communicate with the Powers. Do not mourn me, for I shall have influenced history more man any other German." As he lay dying, he addressed one last prayer to his 'Mecca Stone', a piece of black meteorite like the famous *ka'aba* at the centre of the Islamic world. In his will, Eckart left die stone to Professor Oberth, one of die pioneers of rocketry and spaceflight. Oberth was still studying occultism on his eightieth birthday, fifty-one years later. Like the Thuleans', Oberth's contacts were Tibetan lamas.

The year 1923 was not a good one for Germany. In that year, the French army occupied the Ruhr. Germans in

occupied territory fought a guerrilla war, and several prominent members of the Resistance were executed by the French military authorities. In the same year, the whole financial system of the country collapsed. Inflation rocketed. Hundreds, then thousands, millions and finally billions of Marks represented a week's wages, when there was work to be had. Inflation was so rampant that the Mark declined in value literally by the hour.

During this time, people with access to foreign currency lived like lords. Hitler and the Nazis, with friends in other countries, were able to buy up property and businesses for the equivalent of a few dollars. Inflation, and the misery it brought, was a godsend to fantatics like Hitler. In 1923, the future Führer said "To liberation belongs more than economic policy: more than sweat. To make us free we need pride, will, defiance, hate, hate and again hate!" Economic collapse, destroying work and property, was providing this hate in generous measure. Knowing by heart the notorious anti-Semitic book *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion,* Hitler used the most famous quotation from it: "By envy and hatred, by struggle and warfare, even by spreading hunger, destitution and plagues, we shall bring the people to such a pass that their only escape will lie in their total subjugation to our domina-' tion." These words, written about the supposed 'World Conspiracy of the Jews', were seized upon by Hitler and used as the basis of his bid for power.

In an era when all the old values had been destroyed – the Reich, Kaiser, the army, and now money and even the concept of value – there existed a vacuum into which new ideologies could step. In a disoriented, dismembered state, with the majority's will negated by general aimlessness, a psychic environment existed where a strong trained will could conquer. Hitler's was that will, or so he believed, having been initiated by Eckart. His sense of destiny had been kindled by the Thulean occultist, and in October 1923, the arch-racist and former adulator of the Kaiser, Houston Stewart Chamberlain, wrote to Hitler: "You have mighty things to do; but in spite of your will-power I do not take you for a violent man… There is a violence that comes out of and leads back to chaos, and there is a violence whose nature it is to form a cosmos… It is

in this cosmos-building sense that I wish to count you among the up-building, not among the violent, men."

Hitler was not a man to wait, so he decided to seize the time. In 1922 the Racist Liberty Party, the political wing of the *Freikorps,* had offered support to the Nazis in the event of a *coup d'état,* so Hitler and his henchman Alfred Rosenberg devised a plan for the overthrow of the existing order. Rosenberg, a Thulean and future religious philosopher of the Third Reich, brought in his friend Max Richter, who had been many years in Russia and had helped the landowners suppress the 1905 Anarchist uprising. Richter had also been a German spy in Turkey, and had been involved in the abortive counter-revolution in Russia. Expelled from Russia, he offered his not inconsiderable talents to Rosenberg. At the end of September 1923, Max Erwin von Scheubner-Richter, as he had grandiously renamed himself, presented Hitler with a lengthy plan for revolution. The plan for the infamous Munich *putsch* was hatched.

In his occult role as 'cosmos builder', Hitler dreamed that it was a mere formality for him to overthrow the government and usher in the New Order. But things went badly wrong. The police opened fire on his motley crew of stormtroopers, sixteen fell dead and Hitler wound up serving a prison sentence. His rash action had been uncannily forecast by the famed astrologer Elspeth Ebertin. Earlier in 1923 she had written "A man of action born on 20 April 1889 with the Sun 29° in Aries … can expose himself to personal danger by excessively uncautious action and could very likely trigger off an uncontrollable crisis. His constellations show that this man is to be taken very seriously indeed; he is destined to play a leader-role in future battles…" Had his captors believed this prediction, they might have been able to avert the tragedy of the Third Reich.

But it was not to be. Hitler served a tiny sentence in the relative luxury of Landsberg Fortress. There, with the assistance of his lieutenant, Rudolf Hess, Hitler penned the future bestseller, *Mein Kampf. Mein Kampf,* literally, *My Struggle,* detailed what Hitler's Reich would be like – the persecution of the Jews, and war against Germany's enemies included. On leaving prison, Hitler was free to peddle his pernicious doctrine, with disastrous results. In less than nine years, he was dictator of Germany.

CHAPTER THREE

The Secret Doctrine

Madame Helena Blavatsky was one of the most enigmatic personalities of the nineteenth century. Married to a Russian general at the age of seventeen, Helena soon ran away and roamed the world in search of the miraculous. After ten years, she returned to Russia with well-developed mediumistic gifts. She could will objects to move about, create winds and other psychical phenomena. But in 1860 she received a sword wound beneath the heart while practising ritual magic, and- lost her powers. After several other fantastic adventures, in 1871 she founded the *Societe Spirite* in Cairo. This did not survive for long, and ended acrimoniously in accusations of fraud and embezzlement.

In 1873, Blavatsky met Colonel Olcott in Vermont, U.S.A. By 1875 they had founded the *Theosophical Society,* which professed to expound the virtues of Esoteric Buddhism, the establishment of the universal brotherhood of man, the propogation of ancient skills and wisdom, and the conscious mastery of man's latent psychic powers. In 1878, Blavatsky, Olcott and two disciples travelled to Bombay, and soon startling news of psychic miracles was spread abroad. Reading about these alleged miracles, members of the London-based *Society for Psychical Research* sent Dr Hodgson to India to investigate. There, at Adyar, the Theosophists' newly-founded headquarters, he studied the evidence for materializations and other miraculous happenings. Hodgson reluctantly reported that he found nothing but "palpable fraud and extreme credulity" on the part of the members.

Despite this setback, Madame Blavatsky continued with her teaching. Soon, she produced her major book, *The Secret*

Doctrine, in which all the future elements of Nazi world history and racism were present. After Blavatsky's death in 1891, Annie Besant, wife of a Lincolnshire clergyman, became the leading light of Theosophy. Having joined the society only two years previously, she assumed power and altered Theosophy in the light of Hinduism. Although a revolutionary with connections in the Trade Union and Anarchist movements, she adopted the gods and goddesses of the Hindu pantheon and upheld the caste system as a necessary part of the 'law of Karma'. Western civilization, she claimed, was a mere shadow of the once-great Aryan Hindu civilization of ancient India. This contention was reinforced by Blavatsky's key text, the *Stanzas of Dzyan.* Said to have been buried for millennia in a secret Tibetan library, these stanzas were revealed in trance to Blavatsky in 1888. Key texts in the occult history of the world, the stanzas figured large in the studies of the pre-Nazi Thule Society, and have influenced UFO research since the Second World War.

Under the leadership of Besant, the Theosophical Society's London Lodge gained ascendancy, and major ideas emerged from such luminaries as A.P.Sinnett, C. W. Leadbeater and W. Scott-Elliot. Theosophy also had quite a large following in Germany. The ideas of the London Lodge were readily absorbed by German occult nationalists, where they fused with more traditional forms of occultism.

In 1880 the Illuminati suddenly reappeared in Germany. Their leader was Leopold Engel, an occultist in touch with the Theosophical and Rosicrucian societies in England. Engel was probably instrumental in founding the British Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, a magical group from which the master occultist Aleister Crowley emerged. Another significant name in the roll-call of occultists who influenced Naziism was Guido von List. As a youth, he had read the Roman author Tacitus who described the ancient Germans as an heroic race of blue-eyed blond warriors. To von List, they represented the racial ideal, combining the hardiness of ancient heroes with the ancient skills and wisdom of the Pagan magicians. List dreamed he was the last survivor of a hidden magical tradition that originated in ancient Germany, and he set out to revive the half-forgotten glories of the past. A magical order called the

Armanen, he claimed, had subtly influenced German history, and he had been chosen to carry its work forward into the twentieth century.

In his early teens, von List swore before the High Altar of Vienna Cathedral that he would one day dedicate a new temple to the chief god Wotan (Odin). In 1878 he celebrated the midsummer solstice by a ritual in commemoration of the solar god Baldur. In the ceremony he buried wine bottles on a hill overlooking the Austrian capital. The pattern made by the bottles was a swastika.

Three years later, Guido von List published his memorable work *German Mythological Landscapes.* A sensation in nationalist-occult circles, it earned for the author a dedicated following. In 1908, his disciples formed the Guido von List Society. The society's first secretary was a follower of Madame Blavatsky named Johannes Baltzli, editor of the Theosophical magazine *Prana.* Hartmann, owner of the magazine, had been a close associate of Blavatsky, but transferred his allegiance to von List, and gave Baltzli permission to widen the magazine's content to include Nordic Paganism. At the second annual conference of the Theosophical Society in London, 1907, a German member, A. von Ulrich, had shown the connection between Blavatsky's occult history and ancient German legend. Here, the theosophical traditions of the origin of the Aryans were married with old Norse lore, the preserve of German occult nationalists. The old Norse legends were described as exciting chapters of real history, precisely tailored to the psychological needs of the time. "Love of Fatherland", said von Ulrich, "was among the virtues of the German peoples, and he who loves his Fatherland loves its past, which is, indeed, only the mother of the present." The flood-gates were open.

From the Guido von List Society came Philip Stauff, the society's Berlin representative. In 1912, he broke away from the society to form his own splinter group which he named the Germanen Order. To this order came another seminal influence on future Nazi ideology – Rudolf von Sebbottendorf. He headed a special inner movement within the Order, the *Premier Antisemitic Lodge* whose intention was "to combat the secret Jewish alliance". The rules of this German Order

were strict and unequivocal. Only Germans capable of proving the purity of their German blood back to the third generation were admitted. Just to make sure that no 'inferior races' were admitted, candidates had their skulls measured to verify their racial 'fitness'. To Sebbottendorf, racist propaganda was most important. The Germanen Order taught mat racial mixing was the cause of all miseries, and strove to create a new super-race that would rule the world.

By 1917 there were over 100 separate Lodges of the Order spread throughout the Reich. At the end of the war, the order disintegrated, splitting into several new organizations. Hermann Pohl, one early member, led one splinter group. Von Sebbottendorf, by then chief of the Bavarian section, awarded himself the grandiose title *Grand Master of the Bavarian Province* and founded a new periodical. Titled *Runen* (Runes), it carried articles on mysticism, runelore, earth mysteries, racial history and undisguised racist propaganda. Connected with *Runen* was the Thule Society, a study group formed to investigate the legend and remains of Thule, the lost Northern Atlantis. The group claimed that Thule had been the origin-place of the Teutonic race. The Society's emblem was a sword, oak leaves and a curved swastika. Those symbols were to reappear later on Nazi militaria.

Another significant influence on occult nationalist thought was Adolf Lanz. Lanz, or as he later became, Jorg Lanz von Liebenfels, started out a devout and orthodox Roman Catholic. At the age of nineteen in 1893 he became a Cistercian monk, but was soon expelled for transgressing the strict moral code. Excommunicated from Catholicism, he became fervently interested in the mystical side of the Aryan race, and corresponded with Guido von List on matters of magic and race history. Armed with these new-found ideas, von Liebenfels founded yet another magic order, the *New Templars.* In 1907, he consecrated the Order's first temple in an ancient castle overlooking the River Danube. There he unfurled for the first time the new banner of the Templars – the swastika.

Like most of his occult contemporaries, von Liebenfels's leanings were in the direction of ancient German Paganism, and his magazine's title *Ostara* reflected this. Ostara was the Teutonic moon goddess whose festival was celebrated each

spring, the Christian Easter, to which she has given her name. Von Liebenfels's major book bore the cumbersome title *Theozoology – or the Accounts of the Ages of Sodom and the Divine Election – An Introduction into the Earliest and Most Modern World Philosophy and a Justification for the Orders of Princes and the Aristocracy.* One of the earliest books on sociobiology – the supposed justification of race and class differences on biological grounds – *Theozoology* merged Darwinist evolution with a divine origin of society as expounded in Norse mythology. Von Liebenfels's ideas were most welcome to the fledgling Nazis, and the Ariosophical Movement he later organized promoted 'Aryan Theosophy', the 'religious' counterpart of National Socialism. Von Liebenfels even cast what he called a 'Qabalistic Horoscope' for Hitler.

Hitler had been an enthusiastic reader of *Ostara* and first met von Liebenfels in 1909 when he visited his office to obtain some back numbers of the magazine. Von Liebenfels claimed the future Führer as one of *his* pupils, even seeing him as a mere instrurfient of the movement.

Another important occult influence in Germany was the *School of Wisdom,* which opened for business at Darmstadt on November 23 1920. Founded by Count Hermann Keyserling, its avowed aim was "to elevate the German spirit" by means of the "universal polyphony". According to Keyserling, "My polyphonic style of thinking bears the same relationship to that of my predecessors as polyphonic does to homophonic (single-stranded) melody." Anti-Christian and anti-democratic, Keyserling's aristocratic philosophy was grounded firmly in his own vision of Buddhism. For him the whole teaching of the Buddha bore the unmistakeable stamp of a princely mind, Buddhism proving itself vastly superior to Christianity. Whilst Christianity was proletarian, Buddhism, an offshoot of Hinduism, was aristocratic, believed Keyserling. This Hindu connexion with Germany, via the Aryan race, was evidence to the School that Germans were physiologically a 'caste people', in the same way as the Hindus. The only way to save Germany from the 'perils' of democracy or communism was to revert to the old feudal system of ordering society, a hierarchized social state with racial considerations uppermost.

Keyserling's *School of Wisdom* sought to transcend good and

evil. "A man need not trouble about God or the Devil," he wrote, "because his initiatives remove him from their power." Such ideas, originally part of the Manichaean heresy, were common in die occult thought of the period, being the touchstones of magicians like Aleister Crowley and Adolf Hitler.

Whilst von List, Keyserling, von Sebbottendorf, Eckart and von Liebenfels propagated their occult nationalism, other more purely occult groups also flourished. One of the most significant of these was the *Ordo Templi Orientis,* the Order of Eastern Templars, OTO for short. Practising the magical arts of the Illuminati, the OTO was organized by Theodor Reuss, a Freemason and Rosicrucian. In 1912 he travelled to London to meet Aleister Crowley, whose German connexions continued through the Great War, when he was even accused of writing pro-Kaiser propaganda against the British. Whatever the truth about Crowley, Reuss was certainly a member of the German secret service, and may even have met Max Richter, Rosenberg's revolutionary strategist.

Magicians like Reuss and Crowley were seeking personal power. Sorcerers of the left-hand path have traditionally taken recourse to exploiting certain subtle energies for dieir own ends. Occultists at this period were actively seeking to harness an all-pervading earth energy whose mastery promised unlimited power. Known for millennia, this force has received many names over the years. The *Vital Energy* of the Chinese, it was called *Prana* by the Hindus. The Polynesians, who believed it had been harnessed to erect the Easter Island statues, called it *Mana.* Hidden in the middle ages by esoteric orders like the Knights Templar and Teutonic Knights, the force was revealed publicly by alchemists like Paracelsus and Van Helmont, who called it *Munis* and *Magnale Magnum* respectively. Franz Anton Mesmer used the force. To him it was *Animal Magnetism.* Von Reichenbach called it *Odic* or *Odylic Force,* and the radiesthesia enthusiasts *Etheric Force.* To the Theosophists, it was the *Astral Light.* In the twentieth century L. E. Eeman called it *X-Force,* Wilhelm Reich dubbed it *Orgone* and the Nazi dowsers knew it as *W-Force.* To modern-day ley hunters it is *Ley Energy* or more poetically *The Dragon Pulse.* Soviet parapsychologists call it *Bioplasmic Energy* or *Psychotronic Energy.*

The force was described by Madame Blavatsky and also by a British Lord, Bulwer Lytton. In 1875 Lytton published a strange fantasy novel entitled *The Coming Race.* In it, the narrator is led by a mining engineer into an underground world peopled by a strange alien race. The people, known as the *Vril-Ya,* possess a mysterious power which has enabled them to do without machinery and all the trappings of modern civilization. This power is *Vril.*

"What is *Vril?"* asks the narrator of *The Coming Race.* "Therewith Zee (a native) began to enter into an explanation of which I understood very little, for there is no word in any language I know which is an exact synonym for Vril. I should call it electricity, except that it comprehends in its manifold branches other forces of nature, to which, in our scientific nomenclature, differing names are assigned, such as magnetism, galvanism, &c."

The novel was an immediate success, enjoying a considerable cult following. It was especially influential among German occultists, for among the proliferation of occult groups there at the end of the century, we find the Vril Society, dedicated to the mastery of this power. Originally known as the Luminous Lodge, this Vril Society synthesized ideas from the Swedish occultist Emmanuel Swedenborg with the teachings of the Bavarian Illuminati and the seventeenth-century alchemist and Qabalist Jacob Bohme. These ideas had been fused in the teachings of the French occultist Louis Jacolliot (1837-1890) who believed that the principles of all human actions were embodied in the universal force called *Vril.* During his diplomatic visits to India, Jacolliot claimed, he had met adepts possessed of the secret of manipulating *Vril.* The symbol of this sect was the swastika.

To the members of the Vril Society, Lytton's novel was more than fiction. It embodied certain occult truths visible only to initiates. *The Coming Race* does indeed contain strange portents of Naziism. In part of the book, Lytton deals with the language of the Vril-Ya, explaining the principles of their word-construction. There, we find the following astonishing piece: "Zi, as a terminal, denotes fixity, sometimes in a good sense, sometimes in a bad, according to the word with which it is coupled. *Iva-Zi,* eternal goodness; *Nan-Zi,* eternal evil." If

Nostradamus had written such words, they would be deemed a prophecy.

The Vril Society believed that beneath the earth exists a subterranean kingdom called Agharthi. There, a superior race lurks awaiting its time to invade the surface and subdue the human race. According to the Russian-Polish explorer Ferdinand Ossendowski, in 1890 a strange being calling himself The King of the World appeared from this inner world at the temple of Narabanchi in Outer Mongolia. This intraterrestrial being is said to have uttered a prophecy relating to the coming half-century during which vast destruction and social upheavals would occur, followed by a period of peace. After this, a major global war would be the prelude for the peoples of Agharthi to "come up from their subterranean caverns to the surface of the Earth". These mysterious inhabitants of the inner zones were, naturally, possessors of the superior mantic power called *Vril.*

The Vril Society was not the only organization pursuing the 'force'. The Thule society believed that by harnessing this force they could raise Germany to an unassailable position of world domination. By 1919, the Thule Society (which had been founded in 1912) had become a rallying-point for Bavarian mystical anti-Semites. Anton Drexler, original leader of the German Workers' Party, was a member. So was Rudolf Hess, soon to become Hitler's right-hand man, as was Alfred Rosenberg, future philosopher of National Socialism. This society claimed to be the instrument of the legendary 'Secret Chiefs' of Tibet – descendents of the survivors of Atlantis living somewhere in the remote Himalayas. The 'Secret Chiefs', otherwise known as the 'White Lodge' or 'World Wise Men', were supposed to be ruled over by the King of Fear or King of the World, an 'unknown superman' who would one day again rule the globe. Amongst the occult practices of the society was a form of divination using a special Tibetan Tarot card pack. By means of these cards, Thulean initiates claimed they could contact their secret master, the King of Fear.

In claiming direction by secret masters, the Thuleans followed in the tradition of Frederick the Great, Madame Blavatsky and Samuel MacGregor Mathers, founder of the British Order of the Golden Dawn. Mathers, onetime associate

of Aleister Crowley, wrote that he was in touch with these secret beings who were "human beings living on this earth, but possessed of terrible and superhuman powers." When he met them, Mathers felt that he was "in contact with a force so terrible that I can compare it to the shock one would receive from being near a flash of lightning during a great thunderstorm, experiencing at the same time great difficulty in breathing…" The power of the 'Secret Chiefs' sounds remarkably like *Vril.*

Like Mathers, the Thuleans believed that their master was a living human on earth. In addition to their cartomancy, they used a radio transceiver to contact their chief. This suggests that the King of Fear was more than a master on the astral plane. It has been suggested that their mysterious mentor was none other than George Ivanovitch Gurdjieff, Russian professor of metaphysics and much else. Gurdjieff had been initiated as a monk in Tibet, and had then travelled through Russia and Europe popularizing a new interpretation of Buddhist philosophy. He taught that most people go through life asleep, living like automata with no conscious control over their own actions. The only way to exercise the will, taught Gurdjieff, is to awake from this passive, torpid state. Gurdjieff s students used a series of physical and spiritual exercises designed to help them awake to active participation in the drama of life. In order to achieve this, the student had to cultivate a habitual self-awareness and make that his permanent state. Hitler's slogan *Deutschland Erwache* (Germany Awake) and his constant references to the 'triumph of the will' are signs of this philosophy in action.

Between 1903 and 1908 the future Nazi occultist Karl Haushofer visited Gurdjieff in Tibet. Born in 1869, Haushofer had been a military attaché in the German Embassy at Tokyo. Travelling extensively throughout the Far East, he studied oriental philosophy, and whilst in Japan became initiated into one of die most arcane Buddhist secret societies. There, he came to believe that the Germanic race had originated in Central Asia, and that, in order to preserve German superiority for ever, the Reich should expand to the east. This expansion should not only include Eastern Europe, argued Haushofer, but should encompass the Ukraine and Russia, Turkestan, Iran,

Mount Pamir, the Gobi and Tibet. These last places are of great importance in sacred geography, as we will see later.

Returning to Germany for the Great War, Haushofer served in the army as a general renowned for his gift of predicting events, especially enemy offensives. After the war, he became in 1921 Professor of Geo-Politics at Munich University. To further his geopolitical ideas – die relationships between countries in terms of geography – he founded the *Geopolitical Review* and wrote several books on the subject. Rudolf Hess was a student under Haushofer and was so impressed with his ideas about the *Herrenvolk* – the German so-called Master Race – that he introduced him to Hitler. Haushofer encouraged Hess, then Hitler, to join the Thule Society, where his mystical ideas on sacred geography were taught and discussed.

Haushofer's connexion of politics with geography has a more esoteric side, sacred geography or geomancy. All over the world in ancient times, and to this day in Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore and Bhutan, professional diviners were employed to determine the flow of subtle energies in the earth so that buildings or graves might be placed in the most harmonious and beneficial locations. When Haushofer was in the East, geomancy was universally practised. Tuition in esoteric Buddhist societies would certainly have included instruction in the principles if not the practice of geomancy.

Haushofer was a colleague of another of Hitler's early associates, General Erich von Ludendorff. Ludendorff had been Quartermaster General during the Great War, and in 1921 had written a book on geopolitics, Haushofer's pet subject. In 1923 Ludendorff aided Hitler in the abortive Munich *putsch* which led to the temporary submergence of the Nazis. Like many of the leading Nazis, Ludendorff was a devotee of the fringe sciences. In October 1924 a young Nazi lawyer named Reinhardt introduced him to Franz Tausend, an alchemist. Tausend impressed Ludendorff so much that the eminent general funded his attempt to transmute base metals into gold.

Although the manufacture of gold is the best-known aim of alchemy, the ancient art also strove to master the forces of the universe. Transmutation of base metals was only an indicator that this all-pervading energy, *Vril,* had been harnessed. The

early Nazis, initiates of Thule, the Vril Society and various other magical groupings, were desperately seeking the key to this power which would ensure their domination over the world. But Tausend was not to be their salvation. Ludendorff set up the alchemist in a forester's lodge deep in the Bavarian forest, protected by armed guards. Known by the name of *Project 164*, Tausend's alchemy soon attracted funds from several wealthy industrialists, whose avarice made them easy prey. In this way, Ludendorff found *Project 164* a useful source of funds. Alchemy was one thing, but his nationalist newspaper *Die Volkswarte* was in dire financial straits and the opportune injection of funds kept it on the newsstands.

The young *Freikorps* men whom Ludendorff detailed to protect and assist Tausend in his alchemical operations worshipped the occult scientist like a saviour. He was known as The Master, and his female admirers swooned over his 'Christ-like eyes', but his backers gradually became more and more impatient with his lack of results. In 1926 Ludendorff withdrew his 'support', and several other original backers abandoned the experiment which had produced no return on their investment. But others stepped in, among them the Ruhr industrialist Alfred Mannesmann, the steel tycoons Philipp and Richard von Schöller, and Plattenburg-Mehrun, managing director of the Hamburg-Amerika shipping line. With such financial support, Tausend was able to set up an alchemical factory at Freiburg in Saxony.

The only time Tausend ever produced gold, the news was splashed in great headlines across the German press, until it was discovered that the gold nib of his fountain pen had mysteriously disappeared at the same time. In 1929, he was arrested and tried at Munich. Tausend went to prison and eventually found his way to Dachau concentration camp, where he died in 1938. By that time, his early connexion with the Nazis was too much of an embarrassment.

CHAPTER FOUR

Rune and Swastika

That fatal emblem of superstitious terror
Rufus Moore on the Swastika, 1897

The swastika is a symbol of unfathomable antiquity. It occurs all over the world in many different cultures, and has been used by every race. In Europe it has been found on ancient monuments in Greece, Cyprus, Italy, Spain, Portugal, France, Germany, England, Scotland, Ireland and Scandinavia. It occurred throughout ancient America, being as common in Peru as Mexico and North America. From the earliest times it was the symbol of good luck in China, and to this day it remains a religious emblem in the Hindu and Buddhist faiths. Its present English name, swastika, is derived from the Sanscrit word *svasti* meaning 'good fortune' or 'all is well'. This word was rarely used in English before 1900, as the heraldic name *Fylfot* or *Gammadion* was preferred. In English heraldry, the swastika was also known as the *Croix Gammée* or *Croix Cramponnée.* In its rounded, Thulean form, it was the *Tetraskele.* Swastika, sometimes spelt with a 'v' instead of a 'w' came into the English language with Theosophical writings from India.

The swastika has long been a source of comment in esoteric circles. From the late nineteenth century until the fall of Hitlerism, many learned writers ventured their opinions on the origin, evolution and symbolism of this striking sign. Its occult nature was evident early on, and many religious and esoteric movements adopted it. These included the pre-Nazi New Templars, the Thule Society, the Theosophical Society, and

the Vril Society. A shady occult group connected with the last Czarina of Russia also employed the symbol.

The symbolism of the sign was an evergreen subject in occult books and magazines for over a century. In *The Metaphysical Magazine Intelligence* for December 1897, Rufus E. Moore wrote "the tangential course of material and spiritual progression which is symbolized in all countries by the 'Swastika' cross, that fatal emblem of superstitious terror to the uninitiated of all ages; the wheel is breaking perpetually and as often renewed as humanity sacrifices in pain and exults in pleasure; it has been the unspeakable secret of the ages." Students of the sign sought its meaning in its supposed evolution; they thought that to trace it back to earlier symbols would shed light on the enigma. In *The Book of Signs,* published in 1930, Rudolf Koch suggested that the swastika had 'evolved' by the breaking of a sunwheel's circumference. This forms the curved Thulean swastika, which can then be 'squared off to produce the familiar sign.

In 1933, Professor Hermann Wirth wrote that the swastika had evolved from a runic character. Starting with the rune *Odil,* the swastika was formed by expanding it to the four compass points and thence through the curved and straight forms. Wirth's theory that the swastika evolved from a runic character is unlikely, as the pre-runic Scandinavian rock-scribings known as *Hällristningär* contain swastikas turning in both directions.

In his 1933 book *The Sacred Symbols of Mu,* James Churchward claimed to have decoded the true meaning of the swastika, which had been lost 'for 3500 years'. Churchward said that a Tibetan priest gave him the *Naacal Writings,* ancient texts originating countless aeons ago in the lost continent of Mu, a forerunner of Atlantis. Comparing these texts with a group of 'Mexican tablets' assembled by an early antiquary named Niven, Churchward believed he had the key to all religious symbolism. Like Hermann Wirth, Churchward had his own views on the evolution of the symbol. For Churchward, the swastika had begun with the simple cross. A circle was added to the cross, and the arms of the cross extended beyond the circle. Finally, the arms of the cross were

bent back, and the circle again discarded, leaving the swastika, which to him symbolized the 'four great builders of the Universe'.

Whatever the interpretation, most writers agreed on one point – that the swastika had an Aryan origin. As early as 1891, Edward Hulme had written in *Symbolism in Christian Art:* "In the use of the fylfot the early Christians merely adopted and diverted to their own purpose a symbol centuries older than the Christian era, a symbol of early Aryan origin, found abundantly in Indian and Chinese art… it stands for the lightning wielded by the omnipotent deity, whether the deity be the Manu, Buddha or Brahma of the East, or the Thor or Zeus of the West." Like the thunder-broom of the *Vehmgericht* or Secret Tribunal, it represented the supernatural power of the supreme god vented against his enemies, the *Vril* so desperately sought by Nazi occultists.

Although many people today say that Hitler's swastika is the evil way round, the early Theosophists were uncertain which *was* the right way. A visit today to a Hindu temple will show the swastika in its traditional direction and form – exactly as Hitler used it. To them at least, that is the correct form. Much discussion raged in the West, however. In 1909, the *Theosophical Review* contained an article by H.S.Green on just that issue. "Most readers will be aware", wrote Green, "…that some difference of opinion exists as to the direction in which the cross must be supposed to be turning… whichever may be considered to be the correct way of drawing the symbol, the opposite one will stand for that which is contrary to the divine order, and so for evil in general and black magic in particular… if the cross be supposed to be whirling round in the opposite direction to the hands of a clock (the way used by Hitler – N.P.), will be the correct representation of it… most writers have hitherto held (this) to be the correct method of drawing the swastika, and that is the way in which it is drawn in *The Secret Doctrine*". *The Secret Doctrine* was Madame Blavatsky's major work, the Theosophical 'bible'.

The direction of the swastika employed by the Nazis was indeed more common: it is that way round on India House in London; the British saving stamps of the Great War; the Swastika Laundry in Dublin; the books of Rudyard Kipling

and the aircraft of the American *Escadrille Lafayette* of the Great War all had swastikas the 'Nazi' way. This way, when representing the descending hammer of Thor, Mjollnir, it is travelling clockwise, the 'arms' going forward. Annie Besant, Blavatsky's successor as leader of the Theosophists, felt otherwise. She saw the swastika as "a cross of fire… when it is whirling, the flames are thrown away from the direction in which it is turning. It turns to the right with the sun, like the hands of a watch… This is the swastika of the right-hand path". Besant saw the 'Hitler' way round as the swastika of the "left-hand path". But Green concluded "Some uncertainty must surround the subject of the swastika". It is interesting to note that the official seal of the Theosophical Society in 1909 had a 'Hitler-direction' swastika, but that now its swastika turns the other way.

Swastikas of both directions appear in Major-General J. F. C. Fuller's magnificient work *The Secret Wisdom of the Qabalah.* He refers to the 'Hitler-direction' swastika as male, and the opposite one as female, as did Green in 1909. The attributes of the male form are: positive, active, analytical, egoist and demonic as opposed to the female's: negative, desirous, synthetic, altruistic and godly. Fuller places the swastika under 'the mysteries of Aleph', the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet. In this Qabalistic calculation, both god and the devil are represented: according to the heretical maxim of the sorcerers, *Daemon est Deus Inversus* – The Devil is God reversed. In Jewish symbolism at least, the 'Hitler-direction' swastika is evil. Perhaps this is an indication of the high degree of initiation received by Hitler.

Precedents for the Nazi swastika were legion. It was a state-approved hobby to seek them wherever they could be found. Hans Frank, an early Nazi and future governor of occupied Poland who was to die on the gallows at Nuremberg, was deeply interested in heraldry. A member of an obscure Germanic genealogical society, Frank charged Dr W. Daumenlang, its director, with seeking out the swastika in the heraldry of German aristocracy. Not surprisingly, Daumenlang obligingly discovered that the old coat of arms of the Hohenzollern family, the old royal family of Prussia, had been the swastika.

Nazi archaeologists were always on the lookout for swastikas. Wherever they occurred, they were hailed as proof of Aryan influence. Ancient mysteries magazines of the period are crammed with swastikas found on stones, crosses, tools, weapons, dishes, urns, gravestones, ornaments and manuscripts. The SS officers who ran the Ahnenerbe – the Ancestral Heritage Organization – despatched researchers far and wide in search of the swastika. They ranged all over Europe – Wirth gave examples from Spain, Ireland and Scandinavia as well as Germany – even as far away as Tibet, where the swastika was the most revered symbol of esoteric Buddhism. Other researchers went to Peru and Mexico in their quest for the remains of Aryan Atlantis.

The Nazi flag

The flag has always been the sacred emblem of the spirit of a cause. Today, the national flag is deemed almost holy by the governments of most countries and to insult or deface it is severely punished. The flag, representing the nation or cause, has always been defended to the death in battle, and the capture of the enemy's colours has signalled their defeat. Schooled in the traditions of German militarism, Hitler instinctively realized that the flag must encapsulate the whole essence of Naziism. He chose the swastika and applied it to all things Nazi, perhaps as the first application of what advertizers call the 'corporate image'. Perhaps he had developed this technique from his period in advertizing when he eked a living painting posters for Vienna shopkeepers (one was for 'Teddy Perspiration Powder'!). Despite the inauspicious origin of his ideas, he designed one of the most striking flags of all time, instantly recognizable and able to inspire fervour or fear.

The Nazi banner was considered literally holy by Nazis. One Nazi antiquary, F. D. Plassmann, hailed the 'holy banner' as die successor of the war-spear of Wotan and the battle-flags of German chivalric knights. "In this symbol", wrote Plassmann, "live the spirits of our ancestors and our warlike acts." It was at Nazi rallies that the literally sacred nature of this flag was rammed home. At the very first Nazi rally, held at Munich on January 26 1923, the consecration of flags was the major

rite. Held in the Märzfeld, an open space dedicated to Mars, the rite began with a mass rally of 5000 stormtroopers carefully taking up their appointed places on the parade ground. Each group of 100 carried a Nazi banner of red, white and black, and a specially-hired band played the traditional thanksgiving song *Niederländisches Dankgebet.* After a short silence, Hitler addressed the crowds on the symbolism of the Nazi banner. The red, Hitler said, represented the blood of the party, the white stood for national strength and purity, whilst the swastika was there to remind everybody of the mortal struggle for victory of Aryan man over the forces of Jewry and Marxism. The flag was so sacred, he continued, that no Bolshevik or Jew would ever be allowed to 'soil' it by touching it. He then called upon the stormtroops there assembled to swear that they would never abandon the holy banner in any circumstances short of death.

Immediately after the speech, Hitler dedicated the flags. The stormtroops marched by with banners lowered. It took three quarters of an hour for the ranks to pass the dais and for all that time Hitler held his arm rigid in the soon-to-be-familiar Nazi salute. A few months later, Hitler's men attempted a coup d'état in Munich – the infamous *putsch.* Marching along with banners raised, the stormtroops were fired upon by the police and sixteen fell dead. The colour carried on that day was thus sanctified by Hitler, becoming the famous 'blood banner'. At every subsequent Nazi rally, this flag was touched against new banners, consecrating them by a sort of contagious magic, imbuing the new banners with the spirit of the old, a direct link with the days of the *putsch.*

RUNES

> Runes and charms are very practical formulae designed to produce definite results, such as getting a cow out of a bog.
> T. S. Eliot, *The Music of Poetry*

Runic was the ancient Germanic script. Written with angular

characters adapted for scratching or carving, the writing was universally believed to possess magical properties. Used almost exclusively for ritual inscriptions, runic flourished in Germany, Pagan Scandinavia, Britain and Iceland, and some even claim to have found the script as far afield as Tibet and North America. When Christianity arrived, runic was frowned upon because of its magical connotations, and in Iceland it was actually prohibited as witchcraft.

What is actually known about runic is that it flourished in Northern Europe from about 400 BC until around 1200 AD, spreading with the various migrations of Saxons and Norsemen. After 1200, it went out of common use. Being a sacred writing, tradition asserted that the runes were given to mankind by Odin, all-father of the Norse pantheon, the omniscient, one-eyed wandering one who arrives unrecognized and unexpectedly. The preserve of initiates known as Rune Masters, the very word 'rune', which describes a single letter in the 'alphabet', means 'secret' and 'mystery' in early English and related languages. The modern German word *raunen* has connotations of mystery, secrets and whispering. In old English, the verb *to rown* in someone's ear meant to whisper.

From the beginning, runic served primarily for divination, the casting of lots, magical invocation and inscribing monuments to the dead. Each individual rune had its own name and symbolism, over and above its phonetic value. These symbolic meanings were derived from the *Hällristningär,* the magical rock inscriptions of prehistoric Scandinavia. Runic was the fusion of this ancient northern magical script used by magicians and priests with a secular phonetic system derived from the Etruscans of Italy. Whilst the Nazi official line asserted that runic was the archaic forerunner of all the world's scripts, modern studies have shown the derivation from ancient North Italic, Etruscan, script. Before their extermination at the hands of the Romans, the Etruscans operated trade routes from the Mediterranean to the Baltic, where the Teutonic tribes extracted amber. The script used by the Etruscan traders was fused with the *Hällristningär* symbols to make a potent new magical alphabet – runic. The fusion of these two systems seems to have been the work of a single genius, a man later deified and

worshipped as Wotan or Odin. He was also ancestor of the royal houses of Scandinavia and the Saxons.

Runes were used for divination – 'the casting of the runes' – magical invocation, the protection of the dead, and as amulets. "Always carry this yew in the host of battle", reads one runic inscription on a runestaff found at Britsum in the Netherlands. Yew staves were often carried as protection, and the sacred Pagan yew still graces Christian churchyards. Another yew staff found at Westeremden records the power of the runes over the waves. In the *Volsunga Saga,* Brynhyld teaches Sigurd (Siegfried) "runes, or of other matters at the root of things". She refers to the carving of 'tyr' on a sword for victory in battle, and weapons of the Viking period were usually protected with engraved runes, sometimes inlaid in contrasting metal.

With their interest in matters occult, the Nazis were naturally keen on finding out everything there was to know about runes. Orthodox ideas that the script originated in Italy did not fit in with Nazi ideology, for Nazi-sponsored research sought to prove that runic was a link with the dimmest recesses of German prehistory. During the Nazi period an endless stream of books on runic poured from the presses. Scarcely a month passed without the appearance of a new volume, and several magazines dedicated almost exclusively to rune studies sold steadily to an intrigued public. Much of the work was thoroughly scholarly, but inevitably distorted for political ends. Extreme Nazi writers explained how the runes were the progenitors of all writing; that they had originated in Atlantis; or that they had strange, unthought-of connexions. Amongst this latter school of thought was Karl Theodor Wiegel, perhaps the most extreme of speculative rune students. In 1934 he wrote a tract which compared runes and their derivatives; *hausmarken,* with Chinese and Japanese characters. Following the Nazi racist dogma that Aryan civilization had originated in Central Asia, Wiegel argued that runic had spread both eastwards and westwards. In Europe, so he claimed, it became the writing of ancient Germany, whilst the ideograms of East Asia were another direction of its development. To demonstrate his thesis, he illustrated the Chinese characters for rain, plant, tree, village, sun, soil, water and spring along with the

medieval German *hausmarken* with the same meanings. These carefully-selected examples all tallied perfectly! Such thinking culminated in the Nazis' announcement that the Japanese were 'honorary Aryans', whilst the Chinese, on the other hand, were *untermensch* – sub-humans.

Professor Hermann Wirth, expert on the origin of the swastika, was a staunch supporter of the theory that all writing originated in runic. In his 1932 book *Die Heilige Urschrift der Menschheit (The Original Sacred Writing of Humanity),* he claimed to demonstrate how all other alphabets, ancient and modern, came from runic. His ideas were reinforced by E.Behrens, who in 1941 wrote "all writing derives from the rune-hoard of the Stone Age". Evidence was weak, but in the one-party state of Nazi Germany, propaganda was deemed far more important than the truth. It is a tragic indictment of many scholars that they perverted their scholarship to such an end.

Apart from being of antiquarian interest, the runes are aesthetically pleasing and magically significant. So it was that almost every nationalistically-inclined magical order in Germany found a place for the script. One group even developed a version of 'German Yoga' where the postures of the body assumed the forms of the runic characters. In the occult circles of his time, Guido von List's book *The Secrets of the Runes* was essential reading. Von List's disciple, Bernhard Körner, was an especially vigorous proponent of the magical use of the runes, and introduced them to the German en Order when he joined in 1912. A key part of this order's teachings thus became the symbolism and power of the runes. Körner's associate, Baron von Sebbottendorf, actually edited a magazine called *Runen* devoted to rune-lore, Aryanism and attacks upon the Jewish people. At the end of the Great War, future Nazis flocked to study his ideas, and in 1923, when the SS was founded, it was a matter of course that the corps emblem should be runic.

The familiar SS 'flashes' which many think represent lightning, like Sir Oswald Mosley's British Union of Fascists emblem, were in reality two *sig* runes, symbolic of power and victory. Throughout Nazi militaria, runes recur: the badges of the Deutsche Jungvolk, a sort of Nazi boy scouts' movement, was a single *sig*-rune; sports proficiency badges of the Hitler Jugend (Hitler Youth) showed the *tyr* rune for victory; and

Nazi medical personnel sported the 'life rune' in red on a white background, the Pagan equivalent of the Red Cross. Even today, the nationalist-rune connexion is not dead, for on January 6, 1981, at the funeral of Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz, the last Führer of the Third Reich, a flag bearing the *odal* rune was in evidence.

Runes and the SS

The striking geometrical form of the runes makes them a centre of attention. Their association with ancient times and the romance of a former era of barbarian heroism made them ideal for the Nazis' purposes. Heinrich Himmler, leader of the elite SS corps, sponsored many studies into the origin and meaning of runes. Photographers toured Germany taking pictures of runes on buildings, archaeologists dug up rune-staves, and antiquarians took rubbings and casts of runestones all over Germany and Scandinavia. Archaic manuscripts in runic were rooted out from archives, and a new era of study unearthed many forgotten treasures.

Himmler's interest was more magical than historical, for the feared Reichführer-SS was engaged on a programme of developing a magical technology to control the Reich and, he hoped, the world. To achieve his aims, Himmler delved into the deepest recesses of ancient lore, and not a single avenue was left unexplored. In 1937 Himmler ordered Professor Karl Diebitsch, head of the Munich SS office dealing with artistic symbolism, to design suitable Germanic coats-of-arms for the most important SS leaders. Certain runic scholars had claimed that medieval heraldic symbols were derived from individual runes, and because a 'device' or coat-of-arms signified a specific individual, the runic emblem stood for the 'magic name' of that person. Professor Diebitsch obligingly designed armorial bearings based upon the symbolism provided by the Ahnenerbe, the Ancestral Heritage Organization. On July 17, 1937, the Ahnenerbe informed Gruppenführer Pohl, one of the elect, that "We take as our starting-point the ancient coats-of-arms of Germanic man; these form the basic emblem. They are the totem of the Germanic tribe and its forebears. To establish a connexion with the ancient German tribal signs

demands the most careful research."

Researchers in the Ahnenerbe, of which more later, meticulously studied all possible leads which might shed light upon the 'superior origins' of the early Teutons. On a more esoteric level, they studied rune-magic. According to the principles of form-magic, certain shapes have specific effects over occult forces and subtle energies. Runic is the classic case. For example, if suitable runic inscriptions were placed on a stone or post set up at the right geomantic point, then a certain effect would be produced. Such an event is recounted in the old Icelandic *Egill's Saga,* where Egill Skalla-Grimsson sets up a *nithstong* or cursing-pole. On it, graven in runes, is a curse upon King Eirik Blood-axe and his queen. Ahnenerbe research hinted that runic inscriptions on stones indicate their purpose in the geomantic system of the country, and Josef Heinsch affirmed this runic connexion. He discovered that ley lines running across the Rhineland actually formed vast runes which imbued the district with their magical attributes.

Nazi occultists believed that as the designs of runes were culled from the folk-memory, then within that folk-memory still resides a responsiveness to those patterns. A text properly written in runic, they claimed, automatically acquires an additional magical significance highly conducive to contemplation or meditation. Himmler was deeply interested in this aspect of rune-lore. Courses on rune-meditation were made compulsory for SS officers, and his 'knights' of the Black Order of Wewelsburg used runic meditation in their attempts to physically influence the course of history. Having no flowing or cursive form, the runes are particularly suited for deadly-deliberate execution, and in this deeply-concentrated mood the magical act of 'casting the runes' is performed. In this context, these ancient characters form a vehicle for projecting the will. Masters of rune magic traditionally have been able to direct their will and powers upon specific objectives. Himmler was one such adept.

The very emblem of the SS, derived in part from the S.S.G.G. of the Vehmgericht, was a form of consecrated amulet protecting everyone entitled to wear it. Other runic magical objects were also essential components of the SS 'regalia'. The SS ring was a conscious revival of ancient

German Pagan magic, for it revived the symbol of office of the Gothi, priest of the Old Gods. Several ancient rings of this type still survive, inscribed with magical formulae carved in runic characters. A gold ring, found at Greymoor Hill, Carlisle, in 1817, and now in the British Museum, bears an undecipherable runic formula inside and outside. The silver ring awarded to SS officers was nothing less than a modern version, a badge of office in a religious order.

The SS dagger, too, was the conscious revival of ancient Pagan tradition. The weapon had been sacred to the old gods, and also the official sign of the *Vehmgericht.* The dagger bore the runes SS in direct imitation of the heroes' swords of antiquity, each of which had its own magical name and personality. King Arthur's famed sword was called Excalibur, Heimdall, guardian of Valhalla, carried a sword named Head, and the magic sword Tyrfing (Tyr = victory) had such power that if drawn from its scabbard it would kill before returning there. Like all army officers, the leading SS men carried their rune-inscribed magic swords in all ceremonials. The lore and symbolism of the runes was a compulsory part of every SS man's indoctrination, so each officer was well aware of the magical nature of his ceremonial dress. Like a priest or magician, his occult powers were focussed and expressed by his special vestments, instilling solidarity with his comrades, and terror into his opponents. Girdled with such magical protection, he felt invincible, guarded and guided by higher powers to fulfil the destiny promised by his masters, to whom he had sworn blind obedience unto death.

CHAPTER FIVE

The Unsuspected Past –Sacred Geography

The layout of the countryside of Germany – like most other countries of the world – is not the result of unplanned, random actions over the centuries. It is the result of deliberate design by practitioners of the ancient science of geomancy, the placement of human artifacts on the Earth's surface in harmony with the subtle currents and energies within and without. During the 1920s, and especially during the Nazi era, earth mysteries, or sacred geography, as it was known, was studied in depth by many learned scholars, sponsored by state institutes. Had Nazi Germany survived, their findings would certainly have been applied on a large scale across Europe, but as it was, only a very few geomantic schemes came to fruition, mainly in the military sphere.

It is a strange fact that most German ideas about sacred geography can be traced back to England, for it was from British work on Stonehenge that German studies of straight lines across the landscape arose. The Stonehenge district has long been a centre of antiquarian study. As early as 1610, Inigo Jones, the celebrated court architect of King Charles I, was sent there by his master to investigate the enigmatic megaliths. His conclusion that the stones were a ruined Roman temple were accepted for many years before it was realized that the ancient British had actually erected it thousands of years before the foundation of Rome. The great Rosicrucian and Masonic revival of the 17th and 18th centuries naturally delved into the underlying sacred geometry of Stonehenge, and at least one architect, John Wood, actually incorporated its layout and proportions into town planning – the Circus at Bath.

Despite the great interest in the stones themselves, it was not

until 1846 that the actual position of Stonehenge in the landscape was considered. In that year, the Reverend Edward Duke published a book entitled *The Druidical Temples of Wilts,* which postulated an alignment running between Avebury and Stonehenge. This line, claimed Duke, represented 'the axis of the Powers', each stone circle or ancient earthwork along it being dedicated to one of the astrological planets. Despite the ingenuity and reasonableness of the idea, it soon faded into oblivion. Later, another completely independent British antiquary came up with the idea of ancient sites in straight lines across the countryside. William Henry Black, a respected member of the British Archaeological Association, put forward his startling idea of 'Grand Geometrical Lines' running across continents, linking ancient sacred places. At a meeting of the Association at the Green Dragon Hotel in Hereford in 1870, Black presented his theory to an incredulous audience of archaeological luminaries. "Monuments exist", said Black, "marking grand geometrical lines, lines which cover the whole of Western Europe, extending beyond Britain to Ireland, the Hebrides, the Shetlands, the Orkneys, right up to the arctic circle… It exists in India, in China, and the provinces of the east, which are all laid out in the same way."

Black's ideas were ignored by the establishment, though he retained a small following in Hereford led by Dr Bull of the Woolhope Club. A later and more famous straight-line theorist, Alfred Watkins, was to become a member of this club several years later. Watkins improved and popularized the idea of grand geometrical lines, and coined the term *ley,* which most people today use to describe them. But to return to Stonehenge. The knowledge of lines around Stonehenge was ingrained in local lore. Francis J. Bennett, a surveyor with the Geological Survey, related in 1904 that several years before he had been told by a local man of the meridional (north-south) alignment in the Stonehenge district. Bennett applied this snippet of lore to his own studies in Kent, and found mat the ancient stones and churches there were arranged in meridional lines.

In the first decade of this century, the celebrated astrophysicist Sir Norman Lockyer became intrigued with local stories about sunrise at Stonehenge. There, at midsummer, the locals asserted, the rising sun could be seen ascending directly behind

the large outlying stone known as the Friar's Heel or the Heelstone. Lockyer took his surveying instruments to Stonehenge and scientifically verified the locals' tales. An intriguing anecdote was recorded by Josef Heinsch, a leading theorist in Nazi Germany on earth mysteries: when Lockyer was surveying the Stonehenge alignments, " … it was pointed out to him by the Director-General of the Ordnance Survey in Southampton, Col. Johnston, that in line with the axis of the stone circle and its continuation as The Avenue, there stood three other well-known ancient sites: Castle Ditches, Grovely Castle and Sidbury Hill, and their alignment over a distance of 33.4 kilometres was found to be so amazingly exact that the survey of the region was accordingly improved." When in Egypt in 1892, Johnston had verified the sunrise alignment of the rock-cut temple of King Ramesses II at Abu Simbel, so it was natural that he should turn his attention to the megalithic sites of his native land.

Lockyer soon found that Stonehenge was a key point in a whole complex of lines which included an equilateral triangle joining Stonehenge with the ancient earthworks at Old Sarum and Grovely Castle. The sides of this triangle were almost exactly 6 miles in length. Furthermore, the western side of the triangle was found to be oriented towards midsummer sunrise and to extend 7¼ miles in each direction beyond the triangle to Sidbury Hill and Castle Ditches.

The appearance of Lockyer's book *Stonehenge* in 1909 triggered off other studies on ancient stone monuments. Various studies were published on the stone rows of Ireland, Scotland and Brittany, and in Germany astronomers became interested in the relationship between ancient stones and the stars. During the Great War, a survey-engineer named Albrecht wrote an appreciation of Lockyer's Stonehenge work in the periodical *Das Weltall (The Universe).* Albrecht subsequently died in action, but his ideas were taken up by Father Johan Leugering. In 1920, Leugering applied Albrecht's interpretation of Lockyer's findings to his own German landscape in Westphalia. He found that alignments of ancient sites did exist and that they tended to be placed at fixed distances from each other. These distances were multiples and submultiples of an old Germanic measure, the *Raste*,

equivalent to forty-four kilometres. Places named Rastenburg and Uhrenberg, he asserted, invariably had significance in landscape geometry. Hitler's main headquarters in the east, the *Wolfsschanze (Fort Wolf)* was later to be placed geomantically at Rastenburg in East Prussia, a former headquarters of the dreaded Teutonic Knights.

Father Leugering was assisted in his studies by a local lawyer and regional planner named Josef Heinsch. Heinsch continued and extended Leugering's studies into a coherent theory of sacred geography. He found that in addition to fixed distances, many of the lines also occur at fixed orientations with regard to the compass points. Many places in Germany, the Chartres district of France, the vicinity of Stonehenge in England, and even Palestine were investigated by Heirisch, who believed his System was universal. Studies in Germany showed Heinsch that ancient sites are often linked by a 'solar year line', oriented 6 degrees either north or south of east. These lines joined two interconnected sites, a holy hill in the west, anciently dedicated to the Moon, with a solar site to the east of it. From these two central sites, he claimed, lines radiated at fixed orientations. On these lines stood old churches, chapels and traditional holy places. The angles of orientation are directly related to the sacred geometry univer-sally found in ancient holy buildings, projecting their forms across the whole landscape. As each building's geometrical form has its own astrological and magical attributes, so the much larger landscape figure will also reflect these powers.

Continuing his work, Heinsch turned his attention in detail to Stonehenge. The system he had first found in his native Westphalia also applied to England. In the Salisbury-Stonehenge district, he discovered sixteen convincing solar year lines with their corresponding holy hill sites, e.g. Salisbury Cathedral – Chiselbury; Clearbury Ring – Misselfore Chapel; Stonehenge – Codford Circle etc. These centres of sacred power werei certainly laid out according to fixed rules. But what was their purpose? Sun worship? Ancient calendars? This qucstion was to be fundamentally important to the future development of German Sacred Geography.

In 1933, excavations at the Choir in Xanten Cathedral in the Rhineland revealed an ancient geometrical mosaic pavement.

Heinsch was called in to examine it. In form, it was a square crisscrossed with lines and diagonals. Heinsch measured its angle of orientation and found it to be the same as that of the Avenue at Stonehenge – a midsummer sunrise alignment. Its form echoed the ancient cosmic diagrams of Chinese, Mexican and Norse cosmology. Testing the pattern on a map of the district, he noticed that the lines of this cosmographic mosaic corresponded with the placement of the churches in the district. From this startling discovery, Heinsch was able to detect a major north-south axis on the Lower Rhine just like those studied in England by Duke, Bennett and Lockyer. He now had the key to the sacred geography of Europe.

At the same period, 1920-35, another quite independent school of sacred geography was working in Germany under the tutelage of a strange religious nationalist named Wilhelm Teudt. Teudt had been interested in prehistory for many years and in 1917 had published a patriotic book titled *Deutsche Sachlichkeit (German Objectivity).* Schooled in the superchauvinist ideas of the prehistorian Kossinna, Teudt strove to prove the superiority of the ancient German race. During his researches he came to the Teutoburger Wald, the mystic heartland of Germany. Here, in AD 9, the Germanic hero Hermann or Arminius the Cherusker had defeated the cream of Rome's legions at the height of their power. This victory had assured the future liberty of the Teutons from the yoke of Rome. A place of pilgrimage since time immemorial, the Teutoburger Wald has the same attraction for German mystical nationalists as does Glastonbury for the British.

At the centre of the Teutoburger Wald is a curious rock formation known as the Externsteine. A massive outcrop of weathered rocks standing a hundred feet above the surrounding countryside, this feature has an especially-cherished place in German folk-myth. The legends of the *Edda*, Germanic folk tales and the shrine of Hermann are here localized at a remarkable centre of power. The great pagan world-pillar called Irminsul stood at the Externsteine until the Frankish armies under Charlemagne hacked it down after the conquest of the Saxons in the year 772.

Cut into the rock of the Externsteine are several passages and chapels. One especially, known as the *Sacellum,* was of

interest to Teudt. As early as 1823 von Bennigsen had noted that the circular window of this *sacellum,* when viewed from the centre of a niche opposite, gave a view of the moon at its northernmost extreme. Teudt noticed that a gnomon or pointer placed in the slot in the altar under the window of the *sacellum* would mark the midsummer solstice. For Teudt, this was proof of a Pagan, not a Christian, origin for the shrine. His archaeological investigations proved that the *sacellum* had been deliberately vandalized by the Christians, who had levered away large chunks of rock, leaving two sides of the *sacellum* open to the air. One of the slabs, now lying at the bottom of the rocks, weighed over fifty tons.

Having determined to his satisfaction the Pagan nature of the shrine, Teudt turned his attention to further examples. In 1929 appeared his seminal book *Germanische Heiligtümer (Ancient German Sanctuaries).* In it, he wrote: "The solar cult at the Externsteine was only a minor part of an astronomical cult which was centralized for the whole race, and which was based on extensive scientific foundations." Further studies proved to his satisfaction that a whole network of *Heilige Linien* (Holy Lines, or ley lines), extended all across Germany. Further studies followed, and a whole school of sacred geography arose, with important work coming from researchers such as Hopmann, Rohrig, Miiller, Gerlach and Brockpahler. The foundations for Himmler's psychic geomancy had been laid.

Like many ancient arts, there is a deeper, more esoteric side to geomancy. To lay out lines across the countryside, orienting them upon sunrise and moonrise positions is not enough. There must be some deeper ethos behind such a complex and difficult undertaking. Alfred Watkins, one of the major English researchers into aligned sites, discovered that beacons were an integral part of the system. In ancient times, before the invention of semaphore telegraphs and later telecommunications, bonfires lit on pre-arranged points served to carry warnings that invaders were approaching. As early as 1570, William Lambarde, in his book *The Perambulation of Kent,* published a map showing the straight lines of beacons in that county. Although criticized for revealing state secrets, his book triggered off a reappraisal of the then moribund beacon system

just in time for the routing of the Spanish Armada in 1588.

Watkins found that in Britain traditional beacon sites are the beginning or ending points of ley lines. Beacons have also been associated with church towers in England. The west tower of Dover Castle church is nothing less than the original Roman lighthouse or *Pharos*, and Teudt, too, found watch-towers of similar type upon his holy lines. Many of the puzzling round church towers of East Anglia which pre-date the fabric of the churches to which they are attached, are believed also to have been beacon or watch towers.

The fundamental importance of these lines in the defence of the nation – a communication system – was intimately bound up with their holy function. Teudt observed that as well as the beacon-watchtower connexion, the holy lines were also associated with sound. He reports that the early Christians drowned the bells belonging to their Pagan parishioners in lakes, but later baptized these Pagan holy bells and incorporated them into the church towers. Many names on Teudt's ley lines are associated with sound: *Flötpfeife* (Flute Pipe), one important place, suggested to Teudt an audible signal coinciding with the lighting of the beacon fire. Other names suggestive of sound – Klockenbrink, Doenberg, Heulmeier – he saw as further evidence for an ancient Pagan ritual use of sound. The suppression of demonic forces by sound and light is, after all, a well-documented technique. The 'bell, book and candle' of Christian exorcism is common knowledge, and the use of bells, gongs, rattles, whistles, fireworks, drums, shouts, chants, mantras and hymns is a universal technique for removing demonic interference before or during religious ceremonies. The saints of the Celtic Church in Britain and Ireland used to carry hand bells with them wherever they went. Their sound provided the correct psychic environment for their religious activities, exorcising the demonic empire. Although Teudt seems not to have realized the psychic significance of sound on holy lines, high-ranking SS officers schooled in Nazi occultism certainly did.

The studies of Teudt and his contemporaries were just what the Nazis needed. Investigations into ancient Teutonic religion had shown that prechristian Germany had possessed a natural religion closer to the natural world than people of the twentieth

century. This old religion had stressed man's place in the divine scheme emphasizing his magical relationship with the cosmos. Religion, science, magic and politics had been unified in a single world-view. To revive this state of affairs was the aim of Naziism.

One of the fundamental themes in the new prehistory was the rediscovery of the undoubted astronomical talents of the ancients. In 1921, round about the time Leugering and Teudt were beginning their geomantic studies, Willibrord Kirfel published his monumental book *Die Cosmographie der Inder (The Cosmology of the Indies).* From impeccable sources Kirfel proved that the ancient Aryan tribes of India had possessed a remarkably detailed knowledge of the universe in a whole complicated and coherent cosmology. This discovery came at just the right time to be integrated with the new findings in astro-archaeology, the orientation of megalithic monuments and ley lines, and it was not long before an equivalent study was made on the astronomy of ancient northern Europe.

The man who revolutionized the study of ancient European astronomy was Otto Sigfrid Reuter. Born at Leer in East Frisia in 1876, Reuter was the son of a maritime navigation instructor. After studying the humanities at the high schools in Altona and Leipzig, Reuter joined the Reich Post and Telegraph service. Rising high in his chosen career, he became director of telegraphs at Bremen, where he retired in 1924. Studying part-time under the nationalist archaeologist Kossinna, Reuter became interested in the old Norse writings known as the *Edda,* and by 1922 had written a major book entitled *The Riddle of the Edda (Das Rätsel der Edda).* In it he linked the cosmology of the ancient Nordic peoples with the Indian cosmography as part of the same Indo-European, or Aryan, tradition. He found that various numbers in the Edda, for example the number of the Einherjar, the guardians of Odin, tied in with the Yugas or ages of the world in Indian mythology. On Ragnarök, the Last Day, 800 of the Einherjar ride forth from each of the 540 gates of Valhalla to do battle with the Fenris-Wolf and Loki, god of darkness. Their number is 432,000, the number of years in Kali Yuga, the last age of mankind which leads up to the destruction of the world.

The number 432,000, incidentally, was a key figure in Madame Blavatsky's occult cosmology. Such remarkable correspondences led Reuter into investigating the ancient astronomy of Northern Europe, and in 1934 his studies culminated in the publication of his magnum opus *Germanische Himmelskunde (Ancient German Astronomy).*

In *Germanische Himmelskunde,* Reuter, with fantastic erudition, reconstructed the constellations, navigational techniques and astronomical systems of ancient northern Europe. He showed that astronomical considerations governed the layout of villages and navigational methods of the Vikings whose long epic voyages across the Atlantic are enshrined in many sagas. Reuter rediscovered the almost-forgotten writings of the ancient Icelandic astronomer Oddi Helgason, 'Star-Oddi', whose work to this day remains untranslated into either German or English. Spending nine years in researching this *magnum opus,* Reuter wrote nothing without copious supporting evidence as a bibliography of over 600 entries demonstrates. Such a *tour-de-force,* staid and academic as it was, was a godsend to the Nazi propagandists. With real evidence like this available, it gave "credence in other branches of German prehistory to the insight that our Germanic ancestors were not only refined, and spiritually enlightened, but also highly skilled in scientific pursuits", as J. Hogrebe wrote on the occasion of Reuter's 60th birthday in 1936. Reuter's success in Nazi Germany was his undoing, for a contributor to the *National-sozialistische Monatshefte (National Socialist Monthly)* was scarcely likely to be taken seriously after the war, and his excellent work is all but forgotten today.

One of Reuter's greatest contributions to our knowledge of prechristian science was his reconstruction of the old Saxon constellations. The fact that there *were* constellations with names proved that the astronomical knowledge of ancient northern Europe was far in advance of what had previously been thought. Parallel work by Professor Hermann Wirth (of runic and swastika fame) showed that die layout of whole countries had been astronomically determined. Norway, Iceland and the Faroes, at least, were laid out so that the horizon was divided into eight when viewed from a holy site. Wirth found that this was connected with the old Pagan calendar (still

used today by witches and Odinists), where the year is divided into eight rather than twelve segments.

Wirth visited Iceland, where he was informed that it was formerly the practice there to erect mark-cairns called *Dags-marken* or *Eiktamarken* around the centre of each estate or village. By this method, an extremely accurate determination of the position of sunrise was made possible. Wirth noted that the practice of erecting *Dagsmarken* had only died out in the middle of the nineteenth century.

This eightfold division of time and space was seen by the Nazis as corroborative evidence of a once-coherent scientific system in ancient Nordic times. Taken in conjunction with the evidence of Stonehenge, the holy lines of Teudt and the sacred geography of Heinsch, a hitherto-unsuspected civilization came to light. One Nazi publication admirably sums up this joyful rediscovery. A nineteenth-century painting of a Germanic tribesman, dressed in tattered skins, standing before an imperious Roman in his toga is crossed out, with the caption: *The False Picture.* The idea that the ancient Germans had been uncivilized savages, went the explanation, had now been totally disproved by modern research. No longer could Rome be seen as the sole root of European civilization; the ancient skills and wisdom of the Teutonic race would also have to be taken into account. Astronomical expertise presupposes a settled, orderly culture quite unlike the picture of constantly-feuding tribes formerly propagated. "We have to unlearn our belief that the Roman Church under the Frankish Emperor Charles brought civilization to the barbaric tribes of Germany", wrote Teudt. "The old picture of our ancestors; primitive and incomprehensible customs, stunted, defiant and wild figures, ragged, scanty clothing of badly-worked skins … (gives way to) familiar, solemn behaviour, the well-cared-for appearance of people at a fete, in elegant, properly-made outfits, including well-tailored linen, woolen and hempen cloth. Sumptuous furs, rich jewellery of gold, silver, amber and bronze. Lively, expressive, melodious singing from which our best and most familiar folk songs come down to us, accompanied by technically-accomplished, sweet-sounding instruments."

Seen in connexion with the esoteric occult history of the Aryans and Atlantis, this new-found Teutonic civilization, the

unsuspected past, was just what the Nazis wanted. Unlike the great civilizations of Egypt, Greece and Rome, there were no magnificent works in stone, but then, most of the Germanic works had been in wood. In fact, a new 'age' name was coined to describe this era of culture and science – the Wood Age. The vast wooden buildings of ancient times, like the Pagan temple at Uppsala in Sweden, and the Stave Churches of Norway, were but pale shadows of the truly heroic structures of more ancient times, the architecture which had been the inspiration for the Classical buildings of Greece and Rome. Nazi Germany, they claimed, was the true successor to this Wood Age, a state which would revive the ancient Teutonic sciences and raise the German people back to their former pre-eminent state.

CHAPTER SIX

Merlin's Hidden Power

Until 1949, when the communist revolution largely suppressed the art, geomancy, or *Feng-Shui* was universally practised in China. Literally wind and water, *Feng-Shui* is the science of determining the auspicious placement of graves and houses; the arrangement of towns arid the whole countryside to express and modify the subtle energies inherent in it. It still flourishes today in Hong Kong and Singapore, where even the most modern buildings are designed with the advice of geomants. According to *Feng-Shui,* every place on earth has special features that modify the local influences of the subtle forces of nature. The shapes of hills and the directions of watercourses are the most important features, but also the shapes and sizes of buildings, the direction of roads and boundaries have certain effects. The nature of these subtle forces alters from hour to hour with the changing planetary influences, so astrological aspects as seen from the place in question have to be taken into account by the geomant when calculating the best site for a building.

Bad siting, however, is not totally disastrous, for it is possible to erect banks, dig ditches, build pagodas or situate mirrors at certain places in order to alter the surroundings and mitigate the bad *Feng-Shui.* The interaction of earth currents, symbolized by the five elements: earth, fire, water, wood and metal; and the two opposites, *yin* and *yang,* can thus be influenced, giving the geomant power over his environment. *Feng-Shui* can be used to ensure harmonious living, fertile fields, and political control. It is this last use that has fascinated men from ancient times to the present day.

Evidence shows tiiat *Feng-Shui* was being practised in China

as early as 3000 years ago. Government residences and Imperial palaces were precisely located by geomants. When government officials arrived at a city, they used the geomantic compass, the vital instrument possessed by every Chinese geomant, to assess the site before commencing construction. Such practices are recorded in several ancient Chinese texts. Over the following centuries the science was honed to an accurate pitch of precision, and became the sole preserve of schools of initiates, who, like the Etruscan Augurs or the European Freemasons, their later parallels, jealously guarded their arcane secrets from the masses.

Feng-Shui first came to the notice of Europeans in the 1600s, when a Jesuit mission was sent to China. The missionaries were specially chosen as knowledgeable men whose expertise in mathematics and astronomy would impress the Chinese Emperor. Having ingratiated themselves with him, they proceeded to attempt to dismember *Feng-Shui* whilst collecting the secrets for their own use. They even convinced the Emperor that it would be a good thing to destroy all geomantic textbooks, and a beginning was made on outlawing the venerable science. The reason behind this is not difficult to see. Convinced of the power of *Feng-Shui* the Jesuits, now holders of geomantic knowledge, wished to destroy its use so that they would be the sole wielders of its power.

When the Jesuit missionaries returned to Europe, it was not long before the outward principles of *Feng-Shui* became applied to landscape gardening. The formal gardens of Versailles, laid out in straight lines by Le Nôtre, became modified in the light of Chinese 'aesthetics', and straight formality disappeared. About this time, too, Jesuit experiments into all sorts of fields led to the magnetic discoveries of Franz Anton Mesmer. His researches into subtle energies were to lead indirectly to discoveries in the geomantic field.

But before this could happen, the principles of *Feng-Shui* had to be put in a context understandable in the west. The time was not right until the early years of this century. Between 1906 and 1909, a German traveller and explorer named Ernst Borschmann toured round China photographing the picturesque sights. Unlike many travellers, however, Borschmann took a keen interest in the reasons for the placement of the buildings

he saw. In his book *Picturesque China,* published in both German and English, he described the principles of *Feng-Shui* and the concepts behind it. Karl Haushofer, too, confidant of Adolf Hitier and protagonist of geopolitics, had encountered the ideas of *Feng-Shui.* As the Indo-Germanic race, according to occult teachings, had sojourned in the region of the Gobi, it was reasonable to suppose that the principles of geomancy also had an Indo-Germanic or Aryan origin. The discoveries made by Teudt, Heinsch, Reuter and Wirth reinforced this supposition.

All over the world, certain mountains are considered to be the abodes of the gods. Examples are numerous and cosmopolitan. The ancient Greeks had their Mount Olympus; the Hindus Mount Meru and Mount Kailas; the Tibetan Buddhists, Kanchenjunga; the North American natives, Bear Butte, Mount Shasta, and the San Francisco Twin Peaks; the ancient Britons had Mount Snowdon and Glastonbury Tor; and the Jews Mount Sinai and Mount Horeb. Josef Heinsch found that such 'holy hills' were the starting-points for ley lines, and Paul Devereux has recently extended his ideas in Britain. Holy hills in Peru are invariably linked with holy lines and sacred sites, and throughout every tradition we find references to the special sacred powers of mountains.

For over a century, occultists have claimed that these special holy mountains are in reality energy centres which collect cosmic forces from space and channel them into the 'veins of the earth', the energy grid composed of ley lines. Observations of holy mountains reinforce this assertion. At certain times of the year, when the energy is at its maximum, strange lights and other pheonomena are often seen at such places. Mount Shasta,' one of the Native Americans' sacred peaks, is one such site; for there many inexplicable flashes of light have been observed. First recorded by prospectors in the old California gold rush of 1849, these flashes were seen in daylight, and in clear weather when there was no lightning about. Nowadays, cars in the vicinity of the mountain develop ignition failure without any obvious cause. This is a classic energy manifestation, noted in connexion with UFOs, Stonehenge and the enigmatic 'transmitter' Hitler erected on the Brocken peak in Germany. When a vast forest fire engulfed much of the district in 1931, Mount Shasta was suddenly swathed in a mysterious fog. The fire

could not burn where the fog protected the mountain peak. For many years afterwards, a perfect curve around the mountain marked the furthest advance of the flames.

For several years now it has been noticed that various seemingly unconnected pheonomena, like the Mount Shasta 'fog', appear at certain defined classes of locality. Whether the phenomena be Unidentified Flying Objects, ghosts, ball lightning, poltergeist activity, or tales of holy miracles and cures, all seem to fit into a network of straight lines and terrestrial geometry which can only be a manifestation of a worldwide energy-matrix. These phenomena, seen in the past as angels, demons, fairies, will-o-the-wisps and the like are manifestations of the energy-grid interacting with the human mind, both conscious and unconscious. When unconscious, minds may cause poltergeist activity or uncontrolled apparitions. But when the conscious mind, or better still, the trained will, interacts with this energy field, then the classical effects traditionally associated with witches and wizards may appear. The forms that this energy-control may take depend entirely upon the motive of the instigator.

In his books *Strange Creatures from Time and Space* and *Our Haunted Planet,* mysteries researcher John Keel discusses what he calls, 'nucleate phenomena'. These are caused when certain 'magnetic' conditions prevail in 'window' areas. That is to say, phenomena like fireballs or ghosts can appear only at specific places when certain special conditions are fulfilled. At these places and times, phenomena emerge from another space/time continuum onto our plane of perception. According to age-old occult teachings, the conscious will of a magician can provide the correct conditions for these phenomena to materialize in our 'world'. As these 'emergents' can be called up by the appropriate means, all the magician has to do is to find the correct place to perform the summoning. Hence the veneration of holy places, traditionally sacred sites either divined by geomants, activated by dramatic events or disclosed by 'revelation' of apparitions. Throughout history, we find the phenomenon of the appropriation of sacred sites. A new religion, arriving in some country, overthrows the former faith and takes over its shrines. Little is changed. Perhaps new buildings or new symbols are set up at the ancient sites, but the sites memselves remain, 'window' areas used solely by the new religion.

As access-points to the earth's energy grid, these centres were jealously guarded. Sacred buildings were specifically designed to channel and enhance those energies to the exclusive use of the priesthood that owned them, for to possess these sites was to have control of the 'psychic body' of the whole country. In ancient times, the sacred layout of the country was held to be essential for the well-being of the fields, the flocks, and mankind, so the government of a nation depended upon control over the country's geomancy. In an old medieval romance, *The Elucidation,* we find an account titled *The Destruction of the Land of Logres.* According to the writer, at one time there lived at certain *puis* (holy springs or mounds) maidens who would refresh tired travellers or hunters with food or drink. One had only to go to one of the *puis* and state one's wish and food would be brought out in a bowl. One day a king named Amangons raped one of the maidens and stole her bowl. The *puis* immediately became deserted, and the whole land went to waste. King Arthur's knights took upon themselves the duty of finding these *puis* once more and protecting their guardian maidens. They prayed to God to re-establish the *puis* and so re-fertilize the countryside, but to no avail. The land remained waste, nothing would grow and nothing thrived, for the only way that the *puis* could be re-established was to find the Holy Grail – a stone which could channel celestial energies into the now-disrupted system.

These *puis* are identical with the key sites in the system of ley lines running across the countryside. If the lines are carriers of subtle energies, as dowsers tell us, then the disruption of the system could only be rectified by re-energizing it by means of the holy stone set upon the local holy mountain. In accordance with the astrological cycles of heaven, this could only be achieved if the time was right, and all the Grail legends give the Grail the attributes of a hidden treasure which only appears occasionally at fixed intervals. If the Grail should not be recognized and reactivated at this time, it will disappear again. Also, if those without understanding should find it and attempt to use it, it will destroy them. For instance, when Lancelot, who was not a worthy knight, saw the Grail, he was knocked out by a blast of hot wind, and lost his sight, hearing and speech. He remained unconscious for twenty-four days and

nights, unable to move, before finally recovering. He had obviously been at the receiving end of an energy-blast. There are many modern instances of people touching standing stones and being felled by unknown energies.

The ancient legends associated with geomantic sites all indicate the operation of this subtle energy, the *Vril* of Bulwer Lytton. Continental versions of the Arthurian legends show Merlin the Wizard as manipulator of these forces. In the *livre d'Arthur,* Merlin creats several strange things with his magical technology. In the sea, he builds a rotating island made of metal and held in place by a magnet. He transports the stones of Stonehenge from Ireland "not by force, but by Merlin's art", when manpower fails. He protects cities with two metal dragons and performs many other wizardries.

Here we see a magician skilled in a magnetic technology of a type now largely lost. This technology was seen as a manipulation of the spirit. When Merlin moved the stones to Stonehenge, according to the Historian Geoffrey of Monmouth, "He set them up round the graves and thus proved that the spirit can achieve more than strength." The spirit of course was the subtle energy *Vril,* channelled by the ancient science of geomancy. Further evidence for this comes from another of Merlin's feats: he makes a defence of copper around his home town, Carmarthen. This legend until now has appeared incomprehensible. Walls of copper! But recent dowsing discoveries show that a defence of copper can indeed be placed around something. In his remarkable book *Needles of Stone,* published in 1978, the dowser Tom Graves showed how earth-energy lines are deflected around a site by, for example, a stone circle. The lines are in some way 'captured' as they arrive at the stones, and a sort of 'shield ring' is formed, isolating the inside of the circle from the energies. Now modern dowsers and earth acupuncturists know that the same effect can be produced by pushing copper pegs or wires into the ground where energy lines are. If placed in a ring around some object or place, it can be isolated from the energy system. The 'ramparts of copper' of Merlin would have been just this, isolating his town Carmarthen from external energy influences and hence from external psychic attack. His circular magnetic island sounds frighteningly close to a flying saucer!

In most Arthurian tales, the quest for the Holy Grail stems from suggestions made by Merlin, the earth energies technician wishing to find the emanator and modulator of those energies. In the best-known Continental Grail legend, Wolfram von Eschenbach's *Parzifal*, the Grail is indeed a stone. This legend calls the Grail a stone "which is of the purest kind. If you do not know it, it shall here be named to you. It is called *lapsit electris*." Kyot, from whom Wolfram von Eschenbach culled the Grail story, related that the Grail stone was discovered by Flegetanis, a Pagan natural scientist who read of it in the stars. Flegetanis is believed to have been the Iraqi mystic Thabit ben Qorah, who lived at Baghdad from 826 to 901 AD. Ben Qorah was an alchemist who translated into Arabic many ancient Greek alchemical texts. Kyot was a Provencal. Provence was the stronghold of the Cathars and several other heretical sects, and Kyot's information on Flegetanis/ben Qorah come from ancient Arabic documents he found at Toledo, then under Arab rule.

The connexion between the stone and alchemy is very strong. Ostanes, one of the earliest alchemists, wrote of the 'stone that has a spirit'. This 'stone with a spirit', or 'electric stone' referred to as the Grail is identical with the *elixir* or Philosopher's Stone of the alchemists. Perhaps it was some sort of energy transformer which, if placed in the right geomantic position and activated by the correct psychic atmosphere, would give off energies that could both purify and heal. The connexion with a Baghdad mystic is doubly intriguing when we note that Baghdad was the place where ancient electrical batteries were discovered. Perhaps some strands of ancient 'electric-stone' science lingered on in Baghdad whilst Kyot was writing about the Grail. The Knights Templar, whom some believe owned the Holy Grail, were certainly initiates in such matters. Their town in Hertfordshire is still called Baldock, the Europeanization of Baghdad.

Wolfram stresses the neutral nature of his energy in poetic terms. The Grail stone was supposed to be guarded by those angels who remained neutral in the strife between God and Satan. This group is sometimes known as The Doubters. Wolfram wrote:

Those who took neither side
when Lucifer and the Trinity fought –
Those angels, noble and worthy,
Who were compelled to descend to earth
To this same stone.

In his book *Wolfram und der Gral,* published in Berne in 1939, S. Singer showed that this neutrality was a Cathar doctrine. It was to resurface in nineteenth century German thought in Nietzsche's *Beyond Good and Evil,* in the teachings of Keyserling's School of Wisdom and in Nazi belief. Like electricity, magic or nuclear fission, neutral energies may be used for good or evil. The earth energies – Vril – manageable by the Grail stone are likewise neutral. It is its application which makes Vril beneficial or malevolent.

The Grail stone's connexion with earth energies is further demonstrated by its associated phenomena. In the *Queste de Saint Graal,* the Grail appears at Whitsuntide to King Arthur and his knights: "A clap of thunder sounded, followed by a brilliant ray of light." This transmutation of earth energies into sound and light has been observed at many geomantic monuments. 'Cold light' or 'cold fire', a sort of magnetic glow, has always been associated with ancient magical technologies. An old German superstition states that treasure only comes to the surface of the earth every 700 years at which time it announces its presence by little blue flames – the so-called 'treasure fire'. Rays of light or force emanating from objects have a widespread and venerable tradition. Blaise de Vigenère (1523-69), an alchemist influenced by the Qabalah, writes of the "trunk of the tree of death that sent out a red death-ray". In 1979 earth mysteries researcher Paul Devereux photographed a ray of infra-red energy shooting from the King's Stone at the Rollright Stones, an ancient megalithic stone circle in Oxfordshire.

The traditional power of the Philosopher's Stone was that of transmutation – the alteration of one state of matter into another. The best known example of this is the alteration of base metals into gold. In modern terms, such a stone would produce a field of force which could manipulate matter and energy, transforming one element into another. Any object

with these powers could also transform one type of energy into another, magnetism into light, sound into electricity, etc. The aim of the ancient alchemists was to attain this stone, whose possession would also bring about the spiritual enlightenment of its finder. The energies radiated by the stone would act upon the alchemist and put him in a unique position with regard to time, space and matter. He could then penetrate beyond these to their underlying realities, achieving 'the great work'. Possession of such a stone of power was an awesome responsibility, bringing with it the power to create and destroy. Thus it was that only the most worthy of people, be they the most noble knight or the most enlightened alchemist, should be allowed to gain access to it. The powers it afforded for controlling the earth's subtle energy body via the ley line system gave an almost unlimited scope for world enslavement, if an evil one were to achieve its secret, so for centuries these ideas were guarded by initiates and handed on only to those who would not divulge them. These secrets were leaked during the Renaissance and finally revealed for those who could pay during the nineteenth century. It was only a matter of time before they were applied for evil ends.

One great initiate, Leonardo Da Vinci, knew of the Earth as a living body crisscrossed by circulatory channels. In the *Leicester Manuscript,* he writes of the ebb and flow of the inner spirits of the world and their influences upon the human body – a western version of *Feng-Shui* and acupuncture. According to a mysterious document in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, Da Vinci was Grand Master of the Prieuré de Sion (Priory of Z ion), an occult group connected with the Knights Templar and the Cathar heresy. A twentieth-century initiate, Dion Fortune, an occult novelist and founder of the Fraternity of the Inner Light, wrote that ancient shrines like Avebury acted as energy centres. Performing the correct rituals at the appropriate times would, asserted Fortune, send out power to do as the senders wished. Such is the principle of occult control.

Dion Fortune picked up these ideas from the Order of the Golden Dawn, which she joined towards the end of its existence. The Order had German connexions, having been formed in 1886 by Dr Wynn Westcott, then coroner for

North-East London. He had come across some mysterious coded manuscripts on a second-hand bookstall. When deciphered, they proved to be the basis of a system of ritual magic which contained the address of a contact: Fräulein Anna Sprengler of Nuremberg. In 1880, the Order of Illuminati had reappeared openly in Germany, and Sprengler was probably a member of this group. Corresponding with the German, the English occultists received detailed instructions and permission to found a 'Rosicrucian' society in England – The Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn.

In its initiation ritual, the Hermetic Order had the following statement: "The candidate asking for light is taken to the altar and forced to take an obligation to secrecy under penalty of expulsion and *death or palsy from hostile current of will."* (my italics). This shows that the order had at its disposal, or believed itself capable of unleashing, powers to disrupt the nervous systems of others. This knowledge had been handed on from German occultism. Dion Fortune's writings on the magical activation of earth energies indicates that this was one technique taught by the Golden Dawn. The terrible direction of hostile currents of will through the ley line system is an appalling possibility. Ancient records tell of *Druis Lanach,* the Vril or 'Lightning of the Druids' which was directed against miscreants to literally reduce them to a smouldering pile of ashes. The parallels with the still-unexplained phenomenon of spontaneous human combustion are very close. It has been suggested that spontaneous combustion may be triggered at certain 'window areas' related to the earth's energy system. Perhaps the adepts of old had the knowledge of directing this force, or removing from a person the normal physical-spiritual safeguards against it.

In 1895, A. P. Sinnett, a leading member of the London Theosophists wrote "There are great etheric currents constantly sweeping over the surface of the earth from pole to pole in volume which makes their power as irresistable as the rising tide; and there are methods by which this stupendous force may be safely utilized, though unskilful attempts to control it would be fraught with frightful danger." The German Vril Society was formed with the express intention of controlling this universal energy, and forty years after Sinnett, Heinrich

Himmler was to engage a programme of seeking the mastery of Vril.

The methods alluded to by Sinnett were reserved for initiates only, for control of 'etheric currents' could only be trusted to those with benevolent intentions. The Church is one such body. Control of these forces is shown in Father Hugh Benson's sketch *In the Convent Chapel,* written in the 1920s. Benson shows the communion between the spirit of a nun and the Reserved Sacrament as a kind of magnetic force sending out emanations all across the world, causing strange effects for good. "This black figure (of a nun) knelt at the centre of reality and force," wrote Pather Benson, "and with the movements of her will and lips controlled spiritual destinies for eternity. There ran out from this peaceful chapel lines of spiritual power that lost themselves in the distance, bewildering in their profusion and terrible in the intensity of their hidden fire. Souls leapt up and renewed the conflict as this tense will strove for them. Souls, even at the point of leaving the body, struggled from death into spiritual life, and fell panting and saved at the feet of the Redeemer on the other side of death."

If the benevolent will of a nun can have such an effect, then the powers of evil unleashed in such a manner can devastate. It is just the other side of the coin.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Hidden Energies

Since 1978, the modern application of an ancient idea long dismissed as 'nonsense' has saved the limbs of many accident victims. Formerly, fractures which refused to heal could not be cured and the only recourse was amputation, but in that year Dr Andrew Bassett of Columbia University, New York, pioneered a radical new treatment based on magnetism. Bassett's system involves putting the shattered limbs inside an electromagnetic coil and passing a pulsed electric current through it. Results have been impressive. About eighty per cent of adults and sixty-five per cent of children who formerly would have suffered amputation of the broken limb, have been successfully treated. The technique is all the more useful because it requires no surgery and no drugs, the magnetic forces acting directly on the cellular structure of the body. Research at Strangeways Laboratory in Cambridge has shown that mineral formation in the bone is accelerated by this magnetic field.

The idea that the earth's ley line system carries subtle energies is reinforced by Bassett's discovery, for until quite recently, it was considered that many places had healing properties. Sleeping at a certain shrine, or bathing in a certain well at a designated time was considered beneficial for those suffering from certain diseases. For example, sleeping the night at the tomb of King Henry V in Westminster Abbey was supposed to benefit people with bone ailments. If these places are indeed centres of magnetic or other energy manifestations, then Bassett's effect may have been working there. The earth current described by die geomant Colin Bloy has been described as a pulsed current "more like AC than DC" with a

pulse of four per minute. In 1978, Bloy made dowsing analyses of established spiritual healers at work. When they put themselves in thee necessary mental state, multi-parallel dowsable lines formed to link them in with the ley lines of the earth's energy system. Bloy also noted such lines occurring between people in a state of telepathic communication.

The use of magnetism in medicine goes back at least to the eighteenth century, when Franz Anton Mesmer began his studies. Today, the name Mesmer conjures up little more than vague ideas about hypnosis, but in his day, his studies into magnetism and its related 'animal magnetism' were the sensation of Europe. He claimed that magnetism could heal various diseases, and came to believe that the nervous system concentrated a force which he dubbed 'animal magnetism'. He thought that by increasing this force in a patient, healing would take place. This could be accomplished either by the application of magnets, or by touching by more vigorous people. In the light of Bloy's discoveries, it appears that some kind of energy-transfer was taking place. The idea of 'laying on of hands' has a long and venerable tradition, explained as the transference of spirit, the 'Holy Ghost" or personal power.

Mesmer's,experiments were conducted in association with a Jesuit Professor of astronomy from Vienna who went under the singularly inappropriate name of Father Hell. As a Jesuit, Hell was in receipt of much arcane occult lore, and magnetic healing may have been among it. According to Mesmer, he had made "a number of magnetized pieces, of convenient shape for application" to the human body, with which he obtained some notable cures. "I applied three magnetized pieces," wrote Mesmer, "to the stomach and both legs. Not long afterwards, this was followed by extraordinary sensations; she (the patient) felt inside her some painful currents of subtle material …" This 'subtle material' was 'Animal Magnetism'. Other results of the application of magnets, reported Mesmer, were prickling sensations. Sensitive people claimed to have seen a physical glow, like 'treasure fire' emanating from magnetized people. Both phenomena have recently been observed in connexion with ancient megalithic sites, so it is reasonable to suppose that we are dealing with the same energy in both the human body and the earth's.

Mesmer, despite his successes, was finally discredited and declared a fraud. After his disgrace, the Marquis de Puységur, one of Mesmer's disciples, continued to study 'animal magnetism'. De Puységur believed that the force could be directed by the will. His patients, when touched with the magnet, would fall into a state of trance, in which they would obey any command. James Braid, a Manchester surgeon, noted this pheonomenon and gave it a name which has stuck – hypnosis. This is just the modern word for a far older occult pheonomen – fascination, a state where a magician has total power over another person. This is, by definition, evil.

In 1808 a Dr Jung-Stilling published a startling claim that 'animal magnetism' could cause a strange effect, 'astral dislocation' or 'astral projection', an out-of-the-body experience now universally known by its acronym OOBE. All the ancient arts of the occult Magi were now being reported, but in a new scientific guise far removed from the secret salons of arcane magicians. From the researches of Mesmer, de Puységur and Jung-Stilling came further revelations. During the 1840s, Dr Karl von Reichenbach, a respected and orthodox German chemist, reported that sensitives could see a glow emanating not only from magnets and magnetized bodies, but also from metals and crystals. He postulated that this glow was the result of a 'magnetic fluid' he called *Odyl,* a universal carrier of energy. Its name is significant, being derived from Odin the chief god in the Nordic pantheon, fountain of all power and energy. Odyl, claimed von Reichenbach, polarized itself around conductors of magnetism, and was thus visible.

These neo-scientific claims had a profound influence on the occult thought of the period, an influence which can still be felt today. The great French magus Eliphas Lévi, master of the occult arts and revealer of many secrets, attempted to manipulate these very subtle energies by means of ritual magic. His English associate Lord Lytton, also an adept, enshrined Lévi's magical discoveries as the Vril of *The Coming Race.*

The latter half of the nineteenth century saw a schism between occultism and technology. They were not to be unified again until the Nazi period. The great strides in electrical science between 1875 and 1900 tended to overshadow any thoughts of subtle energies. All the interest was focussed on

providing cheap and profitable power to drive the numerous machines spawned by the electrical revolution, and it is in the fringes of this research that we find the next step forward. Early in this century, Dr T. Henry Moray claimed that he had devised a revolutionary new way of siphoning free energy from the skies over his native Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A. In 1909, he ran his first 75-watt demonstration, and by 1916, Moray had a device which he said could produce 50,000 watts of power from aerial-ground connexions. After no fewer than 120 successful demonstrations before government investigators and scientists, the apparatus was taken away to Washington and there lost or destroyed.

Moray's 'Radiant Energy Device' was a 35-pound box containing a condenser, oscillators, valves, and a secret 'tube' controlling a high-frequency transformer. His instrument developed electricity by a siphoning process based upon Benjamin Franklin's celebrated kite experiments. Moray found that this electricity was oscillating and not static, and thus could be used as a source of power. He convinced onlookers that there were no hidden wires, batteries or external power sources of any kind connected to the apparatus. He allowed investigators to disconnect either the aerial or earth connexions which immediately cut off the power. Many of his tests were performed 28 miles from the nearest power line!

In 1911, Moray claimed that his device was harnessing energy coming to the surface of the earth from some external source. Nathaniel Baldwin, one of his investigators, wrote in 1930 that Moray's device must have been harnessing some solar light, heat, radio and stellar radiation. It may also have been harnessing earth energies.

One of the greatest enigmas in science is the Croatian genius Nikola Tesla. Although barely remembered today, Tesla's influence upon the electrification of technology cannot be overestimated. Tesla's greatest contribution is now considered to be the application of alternating current to electricity transmission, which enabled large amounts of power to be used in industry and transport, irrevocably altering the world. Pioneer of radio, he demonstrated wireless telegraphy five years before Marconi, but never bothered to perfect it. He had a new obsession – the transmission of power without wires.

During his experiments with phenomenally-high voltage equipment, Tesla observed unprecedented effects, the formation of artificial ball lightning. Ball lightning is still a barely-explained natural phenomenon. It appears as a glowing spherical mass of incandescent gas or plasma that floats into houses, along telephone or power cables. This abnormal form of lightning has been observed to pass through glass windows without affecting the glass in any way, It has fallen into tubs of water swiftly bringing the water to boiling point. Witnesses to ball lightning have included the atomic physicist Niels Bohr; Victor Weisskopf, director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Dean Acheson, former US Secretary of State. Acheson reported that ball lightning crossed the breakfast table aboard the Presidential plane.

It has been noticed that ball lightning occurs regularly at some places. The accidental formation of ball lightning has been observed about once a year for the past decade inside Building 985 at Hill AF Missile Radiographic Facility, Utah. Volleyball-sized fireballs drop out of the space next to the high voltage supply of a linear accelerator. A ball of blue fire floats down to the floor, rolls about at random and then suddenly rises again to the power source where it dissipates. On one occasion, lightning struck the building, and at the same instant an intense sphere of fire about the size of a tennis ball formed above a power conduit on the wall. It moved along the wall for about thirty feet, floated out and around the neck and shoulders of a technician standing nearby, moved back to the wall and continued on its way for several feet until it reached a junction box. At this, the ball exploded, causing major electrical damage.

Ball lightning appears to be another form of power transmission, somehow connected with the earth, or in the case of artificial ball lightning, the power source causing it. Tesla worked on a related phenomenon, electricity transmission without wires. In 1899, from his laboratory at Colorado Springs, he was able to transmit enough power to light up 200 fifty-watt light bulbs twenty-six miles away. During these experiments, Tesla made a fantastic discovery: the earth is alive with electrical energy.

In 1899, he began investigating the phenomenon of natural

lightning. During a thunderstorm, he monitored the movement of lightning with special apparatus. The intensity of the storm varied with its distance from him, but not in the expected way. There were regular 'peaks' and 'troughs' in intensity – standing waves. Tesla had accidentally discovered that the whole of our planet behaves, exactly like an electrical conductor of limited dimensions. Standing waves can be likened to two violin strings tuned to the same pitch. If one vibrates, the string next to it will also begin to vibrate at a harmonic frequency. If this occurs on the globe, then a receiver tuned to the frequency of a transmission can pick up the energy and make use of it. Tesla believed that he could build a transmitter producing massive voltages which could pump power into the ground to be retrieved at fixed harmonic distances from the transmitter.

All of this is remarkably close to arcane ideas about earth energies, ley lines, sacred geometry and Vril, and its closeness to occult thought is less than a coincidence, for Tesla's brainwaves came to him as 'revelations' from the nonmaterial world. In his fragmentary autobiography, he records that he often experienced spontaneous visions. At first, he tried to suppress them, but gradually he realized their value and trained himself to control them. By his own efforts, he duplicated the visualization and spiritual exercises taught by occultists, and became able to-control his faculties at will. In this way, he wrested from Nature the secrets of electricity.

Tesla's genius gradually pushed him further and further from the ranks of orthodox science. After all, artificial lightning and wireless power transmission threatened the established order, for free electricity worldwide (Tesla's avowed aim) would threaten the established political and economic order. On July 1, 1934, Tesla announced to the world another startling invention – he had perfected the 'death ray'. Tesla hoped that this weapon would spell the end of all wars. He had developed a method of transmitting concentrated beams of particles at tremendous velocity through free air. These charged particles could destroy any enemy aircraft or could even burn a 'spot' on the Moon as a demonstration. The beam could be set up around the borders of a country, making it impregnable. But nobody was interested. The British government was offered the idea in 1937, but turned it down. German

scientists, who were not offered the device, immediately began work on it. Their studies led to the creation of two useful machines – radar and the electron microscope, but they never brought the particle-beam weapon into combat duty.

To mark Tesla's 80th birthday in 1936, the government of Jugoslavia (of which his native Croatia is part) founded the Tesla Institute in Belgrade. In recognition of his services to science, the Institute granted him a pension of $7200 a year. The Tesla Institute collected together all his published works and much unpublished material in order to carry on his studies. Tesla died in 1943, and the FBI impounded his papers. It was over ten years before his relatives could wrest these valuable papers from the authorities, but as only Tesla himself knew what had been there, any number of documents might have been withheld. In 1941, Jugoslavia had been overrun by the German army, and the material at the Tesla Institute had fallen into the hands of Himmler's SS. All the elements were now present for the grand synthesis of ancient lore and modern science into a new magical technology fit to serve the New Order of National Socialism.

CHAPTER EIGHT

W-Force

Dowsing is an ancient art which has been practised since time immemorial. Using either the traditional hazel twig or the more modern pendulum, the dowser can detect underground water by the movements induced in his arms when he passes over a source. Long dismissed as 'superstitition' by official science, dowsing nevertheless has been brought to a fine art by practitioners who have made a living by detecting water. Despite this embargo by official science, many expert dowsers have attempted to determine the precise mechanism of dowsing, or 'radiesthesia' as it was once known. Earlier this century, several prominent dowsers carried out many experiments, some of which led to startling developments in the treatment of disease, for in dowsing the human body, not the rod but the pendulum, is the true instrument of detection.

The Abbé Mermet, one of the most famous dowsers of the 1920s and 30s, claimed that dowsing worked because 'rays' or energies emanating from bodies such as metals or water interacted with the sympathetic nervous system using the body as a conductor. In classical Physics, the explanation of influences distant from the body producing effects is seen in terms of the 'field'. For example, a magnet is surrounded by its own magnetic field. Various types of field or emanation can be detected by the human nervous system; light, sound and vibration are commonly experienced through the normal senses. Magnetism, too, is detected, though exactly how has not yet been determined.

Dowsers believe that a 'radiesthetic field' also exists. One suggestion is that the earth itself emanates radiation which is disrupted on its way out. The dowser, continually bathed in the

earth's field, detects variations in its strength by means of the rod or pendulum, the variations being caused by 'shadows' in the field. The skilled dowser can distinguish between the different characters of the field in the same way that most people can distinguish colours. Just as it is impossible to describe colours to a person who has been blind from birth, it is impossible for a dowser to describe the differences in the field to a non-dowser.

Various objects placed in the field may affect it. They may disrupt or distort the field, causing local turbulence or eddies; they may channel it or locally concentrate its effects. Some effects occur naturally. Where water runs below ground, the classical water diviner's reaction can be detected. Where the water wells up towards the surface, but does not break through as a spring, there an energy concentration known as a 'blind spring' exists. These points of localized energy have since ancient times been used as holy places where healing and devotion to the gods could be more effectively achieved. Such places produce dowsable spirals, lines and 'haloes', and link in with the earth's energy system.

The connexion between the energy system and radiesthesia was first noted by Johann Karl Bahr of Dresden, Professor of Chemistry and a follower of von Reichenbach of *Odyl* fame. Bahr, who christened the force 'dynamic activity', noticed that substances he tested with the pendulum produced swings consistently towards certain well-defined compass directions. Classifying these substances according to the directions they produced with the pendulum, Bahr arrived at a directional system of identifying minerals. By doing so, he revived the age-old tradition that certain directions are associated with certain metals, planets, and physical attributes. According to many cultural traditions, each direction, and there may be 4, 8, 16 or even 32, is ascribed a colour, metal, jewel, tree and other magical correspondences. Otto Sigfrid Reuter's studies on ancient Icelandic astronomy rediscovered their system of the eight directions, and the way was open for progress in a scientific analysis of sacred geography.

During the 1920s, H. Winzer and W. Melzer of Stuttgart decided to analyze the incidence of cancer on a geographical basis. They studied instances of cancer across the city, but

could find no connexion between diem until dowsers suggested that they studied underground geological fault lines. To their amazement, the districts with the highest occurrence of cancer were traversed by the five major geological faults of the area. Winzer and Melzer then suggested that radiation coming up through the faults might be the primary cause of the cancer. In 1929, this discovery was taken up by Gustav von Pohl, who dowsed the sites of the beds of cancer sufferers and found energy lines beneath them. Von Pohl ascribed these devastating effects to 'Noxious Earth Rays'.

Various leading Nazis, most notably Hess and Himmler, actively encouraged dowsing experiments. Hess had a deep interest in alternative medicine, and in 1936 opened a homoeopathic hospital in Leipzig, where he encouraged the use of medical dowsing for the diagnosis of disease. Himmler, meanwhile, established magnetic therapy units for the treatment of ailing and wounded SS men. Hess's chief dowser was another ex-chemist, Joseph Wüst, a follower of Bähr. Wüst, and Josef Wimmer, whom Himmler employed to train the dowsers of the SS Pendulum Institute, worked together at the Anatomical Institute of the University of Munich. Using a fork-shaped dowsing rod of steel wire 2 mm thick and 60 centimetres long, Wüst and Wimmer studied the relationship between materials and the rod's angle of deflection. After years of intensive study, they finally obtained results for no fewer than 54 chemical elements.

Being orthodox scientists, Wüst and Wimmer suggested that a force they called *W-Radiation* was responsible for the dowsing reaction. Testing the velocity of this radiation, they found that it travelled at a median rate of about 44 metres per second, or slightly faster than the speed of sound. The speed of W-Radiation was thus seen to be linked with the sacred geography of the earth, for the ancient Germanic geomantic measure, the Raste, was 44 kilometres. W-Radiation covers 11 squares of the energy grid per second, or one Raste in 1000 seconds, a significant link between ancient geomancy and dowsable energies.

Further evidence for W-Radiation came from France. At a Paris congress on 'radiobiology' in the 1930s, François Peyre of Bagnoles del Orne, France, revealed that, his dowsing had

disclosed an energy grid. Covering the whole world, Peyre's grid was divided into units measuring 4 metres square, oriented towards the magnetic rather than the terrestrial poles. Although Peyre did not know it, his grid was directly related to the discoveries of German geomants, for the basic unit, the Raste, is equivalent to 11,000 grid squares. Interestingly, the number 11,000 occurs in German Christian mythology. Saint Ursula, whose shrine was at Cologne, is said to have been martyred along with 11,000 virgins. The number was added to the legend in 1165 by Abbot Gerlach of Deutz who came upon the number by divine revelation. It is a strange coincidence that in the 1940s, Kurt Gerlach should have been the greatest expert on the geomancy of his namesake's period. Ursula's shrine, built on the site of an ancient Pagan burial ground, was at an important node on the earth's energy-grid, linked to other sacred sites by ley lines measured by the Raste. The 11,000 virgins seem to have been a symbolic way of transmitting the knowledge of the earth grid, but after Gerlach's time, they were taken literally and believed to have been real. Much ancient arcane knowledge was preserved in allegorical form, and modern Chinese geomants still talk in terms of 'white tigers', 'red dragons' and other animal forms in the landscape. Abbot Gerlach may have wished to preserve the knowledge of a dying art in a form which would survive to be recognized anew when geomancy revived at some unimaginably distant future date.

Heinrich Himmler realized at quite an early date that the key to world domination was bound up with psychic control. It was all very well to conquer a nation by military force and rule it by police terror, but to suppress all resistance it was necessary to use psychology, or better still, psychic influence over minds. Such a concept is so strange to the modern mind that at first it might appear preposterous. However, the evidence of modern research sheds a significant light upon the half-hidden deeds of the Nazi earth magicians. Colin Bloy, an expert dowser and investigator of earth energy lines, has been researching this aspect for several years. He dowsed Hitler's monuments at Nuremberg and the site of the Brown House (the Nazi headquarters) in Munich, and his findings showed to his satisfaction that the Nazis had a "working knowledge" of geomancy and earth energy.

In his studies, Bloy followed up the researches of the Archdruid of France, Paul Bouchet, who, in his book *Les Druides,* claimed that a vast system of energy lines covers Europe. Starting at Mount Pamir in the USSR, significantly now re-named Mount Communism, (one of the 'holy mountains of the Aryans), the line travels to Teheran, where it splits. One branch goes to western Russia, whilst the other goes via the site of Babylon to Jerusalem. There it splits again. One line continues to the Pyramids and on into Africa, whilst the other enters Europe by way of Cyprus, Rhodes and Santorini. European holy mountains and pilgrims' shrines like Santiago de Compostella are all linked into this energy system from Mount Pamir. One important line travels from France via Rennes-le-Chateau through Bourg-Madame, Leyida and Zaragoza Cathedral to the great Hieronymite monastery of El Escorial, sacred burial place of the kings of Spain.

The energies Bloy detected can be dowsed with a pendulum just like water. He believes the system to be likened to the nervous or acupunctural system of the earth, which itself is an organism, not a machine. These telluric lines are believed to originate outside the earth, enter the earth vertically, make a right-angled turn, run in perfectly straight lines across or through the surface layer of the earth, then turn again and pass through the very centre of the planet. Being extraterrestrial in origin, they have always been thought of as solar, representing the dominant, male principle, *yang.* The points where the lines arrive from the cosmos or dive into the earth's interior are centres of especial power, marked by characteristic dowsable patterns. This energy system, claims Bloy, is the key to hidden ancient knowledge and the mechanism behind paranormal phenomena. He notes that these lines are especially prevalent at sites formerly administered by the Knights Templar. One important line connects Templar sites with Stonehenge.

The characteristic patterns detected by Bloy include almost every major form found in sacred geometry, with the notable omission of the triangle. Labyrinths are especially significant, for "It is interesting", said Bloy, "that some of these maze patterns correspond to the forms that still may be seen in stone of the floors of various cathedrals, and all cathedrals are situated on a main line: as we have noted that the architecture

of cathedrals, their towers and doors recognize or cause lines, for this reason, we presume that the constructors understood something of the ley system." Nazi Germany saw a revival in interest in these unique unicursal labyrinths, especially the German turf mazes. Haye Hamkens, Friedrich Mössinger and Siegfried Sieber explored the traditions of the then extant mazes at Steigra and Stolp (now Slupsk in Poland). As microcosmic images of the world and aids to concentration and meditation, these mazes were probably connected with the Benedictine Order of monks. The latest British work on turf and stone mazes, carried out by the Caerdroia Project under the direction of Jeff Saward, has shown a strong connexion between them and the Benedictines. The Benedictines use of sacred geography throughout Europe is well documented, and it is obvious that this order was manipulating earth energies for the advance of Christendom. The studies of Hamkens, Sieber and Mössinger were all produced under the auspices of Himmler, who obviously profitted from them.

The lines of force which linked the holy sites of Europe could also be used as lines of conquest. The German novelist and Shakespearean scholar Kurt Gerlach stumbled upon this truth when researching the German conquest of Bohemia in the tenth century. There, he found, the Benedictine Order had laid out fortified monasteries at fixed distances along ley lines. From these, spiritual and military power kept the colony in subjection. All across Europe, asserted Gerlach, the monastic orders had taken over ancient sacred sites and exercised spiritual power from them. A great network of lines, extending from York in England to Fulda in Germany, from Aquileia in Italy to Utrecht in Holland, from Verdun in France to Bremen in Germany, from Trondheim in Norway to Lund in Sweden, from Tenkitten in Poland to Niederalteich in Austria, and from Aarhus in Denmark to Salzburg in Austria, connected together monastic foundations.

Himmler's interest in all forms of power, physical and occult, was aroused by these researches, which reinforced the discoveries of his dowsers. Here was the opportunity to revive the ancient psychic control of nations by geomancy. Some of the weirdest episodes of the Second World War were to stem from this attempt.

CHAPTER NINE

Startling Possibilities

Perhaps the most influential alternative scientist of the Germany of the 1920s was the Austrian Hans Hörbiger. In 1925 he burst like a thunderstorm upon science by the novel device of sending all prominent scientists this threatening ultimatum: "The time has come for you to choose – whether to be with us or against us. While Hitler is cleaning up politics, Hans Hörbiger will sweep the bogus sciences out of the way. The doctrine of Eternal Ice will be a sign of the regeneration of the German People. Watch out! Come over to our side before it is too late!"

Hörbiger's tactics were borrowed from the Nazis. He launched a campaign, complete with an information service, membership subscriptions, recruiting and canvassing, rather like the fringe cults of today. With considerable financial backing from an undisclosed source, he enlisted the assistance of Hitler Youth members and other Nazis. One of his right-hand men was Horst Wessel, later shot by a Communist and canonized with full Nazi ritual as the protomartyr of the Third Reich.

Newspaper advertising space and poster hoardings were used to full advantage, and meetings of orthodox astronomers were interrupted by Hörbiger's Nazi hecklers. Scientific periodicals and professors were bombarded by letters in favour of the World Ice Theory, and open threats were delivered to directors of scientific institutes bearing the ominous words: "When we have won, you and your ilk will be begging in the gutter."

The movement was highly successful. It published no fewer than forty popular books, three major treatises and hundreds of small tracts. It also issued a monthly called *The Key to World Events* which had a considerable circulation.

Scientific theories are rarely sprung upon the world in such a

violent manner, but the method reflected the man and the theory. Born in 1860, Hörbiger was an engineer by profession. Having graduated from the Vienna Technical University, he became a designer in a firm of steam engineers. In 1894, whilst employed by the Budapest company of Land, he invented a revolutionary new system of valves for pumps. Having sold the patent for a huge sum, he devoted his time to his theory of Eternal Ice. Being an engineer in the steam engine business, Hörbiger was fascinated by the changes in the physical state of water from ice to steam. Applying his knowledge to astrophysics and cosmology, he formulated a theory that he claimed was the explanation for the formation of the Solar System and the subsequent geological history of the Earth.

Hörbiger's theory fitted perfectly into the Nazi world picture for it was based on the dualistic notion of eternal struggle beloved by Hitler and his cronies. The ideas of catastrophism and the origin of the Aryan race had been discussed by Ignatius Donnelly in his book *Atlantis, the Antediluvian World,* but Hörbiger had seemingly explained the reasons for these cataclysms. The World Ice Theory *(Welteislehre* – WEL) also explained influences on the planet Earth which fitted in with Himmler's ideas on earth energies. Here, too, was a theory which scientifically accounted for the myths in the Bible and the Edda: the Deluge, lost lands, and the struggles between giants, gods and monsters. The eternal battle between fire and ice expounded in the WEL was seen as the outward expression of the inner battle of Aryan man on the side of Ahuramazda, supreme being of light, against the Ahrimanic forces. Hörbiger had produced just the heroic cosmology the Nazis needed.

The WEL claimed that the Solar System was formed when a gargantuan block of ice fell into the sun millions of years ago. A violent explosion forced a mass of molten matter out of the spinning sun. This eventually coalesced into the planets. Hörbiger came upon this unorthodox cosmology as a young man. "It was revealed to me", he wrote, "when as a young engineer one day I was watching some molten steel poured onto wet ground covered with snow: after some delay, the ground exploded with great violence."

This theory, born in the foundry yard, claimed that exactly the same thing had happened after the ice collided with the sun.

Nothing happened for hundreds of thousands of years, then suddenly the explosion ripped out a portion of the sun. This detached fragment of sun broke into thirty parts – the planets, some of which are not rock as orthodox astronomers claim, but ice. Some planets are just covered with ice, whilst others – the Moon, Jupiter and Saturn – are solid ice. The Martian canals are in reality crevasses in an ice-sheet that covers the whole planet. Beyond the Solar System, at a distance three times that of Neptune from the sun (Pluto had not been discovered when the WEL was published), Hörbiger stationed a vast band of ice through which odd stars shine. This is the Milky Way.

Modern space exploration has shown the fallacy of Hörbiger's claims, but in its time, it was a compelling theory. The idea of ice in space is neither new nor far-fetched. Orthodox astronomers believe that Comets are made of cosmic ice, and many meteoric falls of ice have been recorded. The largest ice fall on record was in the time of the Emperor Charlemagne, when a block 6 by 11 by 15 feet fell from the sky. A meteoric stone covered with ice fell at Dhurmsalla in India on July 28, 1860, and a fall of ice blocks the size of dinner plates was seen at North Molton, Devon, in November 1950. In November 1980, the Voyager spacecraft sent back photographs of the rings of Saturn – veritable cosmic glaciers in orbit round the second largest planet! Several moons of both Jupiter and Saturn have also been found to consist of or contain cosmic ice.

Despite these verifications, the body of Hörbiger's theory rests squarely in crankdom. Since the earliest days of scientific astronomy, it had been known that sunspots appear to follow an 11-year cycle. Hörbiger noted that Jupiter also has an 11-year orbit around the sun, and concluded that sunspots are the result of blocks of ice falling sunwards from the largest planet. These blocks and ice crystals filling space are gradually slowing down the planets, argued Hörbiger, eventually making them fall to their destruction in the sun. When all the planets are fallen into the sun, he claimed, then a fresh explosion will repeat the cycle and planetary evolution will begin anew.

Like Donnelly before him and Velikovsky after him, Hörbiger delved into ancient legends for his evidence of catastrophes in the past. The conflict of fire and ice, he asserted, is recounted in the *Edda* as Ragnarök – the last day. This was a

folk-memory of the actual destruction of Atlantis or Thule by the fall of a former moon, he claimed, for he believed that the present moon is the fourth this planet has possessed. Three masses of cosmic ice wandering through space had been captured and eventually fallen to earth before the present one. Each 'moon' has been responsible for a geological epoch, at the end of which it has fallen to earth, exterminating most of the life-forms and causing the survivors to mutate.

This is what made the Hörbiger theory so alluring to the Nazis. It was all-embracing. In geology, a major stumbling-block to non-catastrophist theories has been the seeming succession of sudden changes visible in the fossil record. An organism that dies naturally simply decays away and does not fossilize; only one buried immediately by a flow of silt or mud can be preserved in this way. In the London Natural History Museum one can see whole sea-beds of organisms in position killed all at once and preserved for posterity. The only way this could have happened, argued Hörbiger, was when a moon fell, bringing with it cataclysmic changes and fossilizing existing life-forms.

The theory predicted that in the last few hundred thousand years before the fall of a moon, it circled the earth within a few diameters of its surface, creating massive imbalances in gravitation. This in turn led to gigantism, the production of mutant species of vast size. At the end of the First Epoch, Hörbiger asserted, there were giant insects and monstrous vegetation; at the end of the Second, dinosaurs; and in the Third, giant human beings, Atlantean supermen and monsters whose memory lingers in worldwide legends. From fifteen million years ago, a civilization of advanced giants stalked the earth, only to be wiped out by yet another moonfall, leaving behind their sub-race of slaves, mankind. This final cataclysm is said to have occurred 150,000 years ago, and after that 138,000 years passed before another moon was captured from space.

During this lunar interregnum, Hörbiger explained, many civilizations emerged under the guidance of the last surviving members of the super-race of giants. Finally, even this pale shadow of the giants' civilization – Adantis – was swept away, marooning the Aryan race in a hostile world devastated by the

capture of the present moon. Finally, the last giants were hunted down by their former slaves, and their death throes are enshrined in ancient legends of gods, giants and heroes.

The final part of Hörbiger's saga of occult science was of crucial importance to the Nazis, for here was evidence for the possibilities they sought. If races of supermen had existed on earth before, they reasoned, then they could be created again. The potential for this existed in the only inheritors of the true Aryan blood – the Nazis themselves. The theory fitted exactly into the racial-catastrophist fantasies of Alfred Rosenberg. It provided an explanation for the destruction of the homeland of the Aryan race, and also explained the structure of the planet in terms compatible with the latest discoveries of Himmler's experts. Hörbiger had everything the Nazis could want, with the added bonus that the theory had been vehemently attacked by orthodox scientists. His was an intuitive, racially-oriented science which demonstrated in a vigorous manner its opposition to 'Jewish-Liberal Science' as the Nazis called it. With Hörbiger's view of the universe, man could control by his own will alone the unlimited energy of the cosmos, the power that Himmler's scientists sought to master. The magical relationship of Aryan man with the universe was again made manifest. The next mutation, which could be helped along by selective breeding, was imminent. The coming race would be composed of supermen, demi-gods conscious of their aristocratic relationship with the cosmos. The Nazi-Hörbigerian ethos was the old Divine Right of kings transferred to a whole race, entrusted by Higher Powers with the guardianship of the order of the earthly, and by the law of magical correspondences, the very order of the cosmos itself.

It is a fact of history that Hitler's armies that invaded Russia in the summer of 1941 had no provision for winter combat. The explanation usually advanced for this curious state of affairs is that the German High Command believed that the Soviet Union would be defeated long before the first snows fell. It is believed that Himmler's Hörbigerian weather bureau had forecast an exceptionally mild winter for 1941-2. Whatever the reason, the *Wehrmacht* had to fight in summer uniforms under frost-biting winter conditions, leading to their defeat by the Red Army and the ultimate destruction of the Third Reich.

When the generals complained to Hitler that their troops were dying of the cold in Russia, he replied, "as to the cold, I will see to that". He believed his magical arts extended to weather-control.

The Hollow Earth

There are two conflicting and incompatible hollow earth theories. Nazi occultism seems to have had room for both. The first theory states that the earth is a hollow globe with access holes at various places, especially at the north and south poles. The other theory is that the earth is a hollow cavity in an endless cosmos of solid rock, with all of us living on the inside of a sphere.

The first theory usually talks of secret races, dwarfs, the survivors of Atlantis, etc., living undetected and waiting their chance to come out to conquer humanity – a lesser race of temporary usurpers. The idea seems to have originated in 1818 when a retired American army officer, John Cleaves Symmes, attempted to mount an expedition to explore the interior of the earth. Various others have made differing claims about this forbidden terrain, but the Nazi interest stems from the legend of Agharthi. According to Theosophical tradition, the last remnants of a super-civilization which once flourished in what is now the Gobi fled below ground into two underground cities known respectively as Schambhallah and Agharthi. German adherents of alternative cosmology placed these cities not in super-bunkers hewn beneath the Himalayas, but actually inside a hollow earth. The mysterious Nazi expeditions sent by Himmler to communicate with the legendary 'King of the World' in Agharthi may have been seeking entry into the hollow world somewhere in Tibet. Expeditions were also despatched to the Antarctic to determine the whereabouts of the polar aperture.

The second hollow earth theory was also American in origin. A nineteenth century religious 'messiah' named Cyrus 'Koresh' Teed invented a whole new cosmology to explain his fantastic theory of a concave world. According to his ideas, the sun, moon, planets and stars are merely tiny bodies floating at the centre of the spherical cavity, and all their apparent motions

are accounted for by special 'Koreshan' optical laws. Although counter to all the observed facts, Teed's theory gained a following, from which developed the Koresh Union commune in Chicago. Investigators from the Koreshan community travelled the United States measuring the world, and found it, not surprisingly, just as their 'messiah' had seen it in his vision – concave.

Certain alternative cosmologists in Nazi Germany (though not Hörbigerians) set up their own version of Teed's idea – the *Hohlweltlehre* (Hollow World Theory). This version, of the Koreshan concept explained why a citizen of Dresden could not look up into the sky and see Peking hanging there. Light, they claimed, does not travel in straight lines as every physicist before had found, but in a tight curve, returning to the surface within the space of a few miles. This phenomenon gave the false impression of a horizon, claimed the fanatics of the *Hohlweltlehre.* Different wavelengths of light, they asserted, travel in different curves. Although such ideas were utter nonsense, somehow they gained currency within the German Admiralty, which attempted to use them to gain military superiority over the British.

In April 1942, an expedition under the direction of Dr Heinz Fisher, an expert on infra-red light, arrived on the island of Rügen off Stralsund in the western Baltic. Equipped with experimental infra-red apparatus, the scientists began a programme of tests. Infra-red rays were projected at an angle of forty-five degrees into the sky, though none of the technicians undertaking the experiment actually knew what it was all about; they were merely obeying orders. Measurements were taken, and the equipment was kept operating for several days in the same direction.

The reason for this incredible experiment emerged when there were no satisfactory results. It had been an attempt to locate the British fleet ai Scapa Flow in the Orkney Islands. According to the *Hohlweltlehre,* that is where the infra-red rays should have been pointing. If the theory had been correct, it would have given an invaluable advantage to the Germans in their conduct of the war. As it was, the abject failure of the scientists' mission to Rügen led to the arrest and persecution of the adherents of Koreshism. Fisher remarked after the war,

when he was a key scientist in the American H-Bomb programme, that the Nazis had forced him to do crazy things which had hindered him considerably in his researches. Considering his later involvement, alternative cosmology may have cost the Nazis the war.

The infra-red experiments on Rügen were not total failures, for they formed the basis for a ship-detection system which the Germans tried to install across the Straits of Gibraltar to monitor allied shipping movements. Later in the war, Rügen was used by a radar detachment tracking guided missiles launched from Peenemünde. Interestingly, Rügen was in medieval times a Pagan holy island until suppressed by King Waldemar I of Denmark. It also contained a shrine to the Hitler Youth.

Hitler's adherence to 'crank' beliefs seriously delayed the Peenemünde rocketry programme. In 1943, during the development of the V2, the world's first surface-to-surface guided missile, Walter Dornberger, head of the research team, received instructions directly from the Führer. To his astonishment, he found that Hitler was not insisting on a speed-up, in development, as he expected, but on the contrary had ordered a major cutback in the programme. It turned out that Hitler had had a dream that rocketry would cause a fall of Hörbiger's interplanetary ice, which would precipitate the end of the present era in cosmic apocalypse. Finally, when the war situation had deteriorated and the end was in sight, Hitler relented, but the delay dealt a serious blow to a potentially war-winning weapon.

CHAPTER TEN

A New Religion

> They conjure up the demonic powers of the ancient Germanic pantheon and because that lust for fight comes alive in them which we find in the ancient Germans ...a spectacle will be performed in Germany, compared with which the French Revolution may look like an innocent idyll.
>
> Heinrich Heine, on *German Nature Philosophy*, 1835.

Late one evening in 1933, Hitler was having tea with his associates. Among those present were Gobbels, Streicher and Rauschning, who was soon to reject Naziism and from whom we have the sole record of the ensuing conversation. The subject of religion was raised, and Hitler declared that religions were all alike and that they had no future. However, like Mussolini in Italy, he would come to terms with the Church. But, in the long run, "That will not prevent me from tearing up Christianity root and branch". The reason that there could be no compromise, continued Hitler, was because the German "is serious in everything he undertakes", and so, unlike the French or Italians, who could be both Christian arid Pagan at the same time, the Germans must reject Christianity and adopt "a strong, heroic belief in God in nature, God in our own people, in our destiny, in our blood."

It was not possible to fuse Nazi racial ideology with Christianity, added the Führer. As the churches were dwindling anyway, the Nazis would have to accelerate the trend. "We must prevent the churches from doing anything but what they are doing now, that is, losing ground day by day. Do you really believe the masses will ever be Christian again? Nonsense! Never again. That story is finished. No one will listen to

it again. But we can hasten matters. The parsons will be made to dig their own graves. They will betray their god to us."

Hitler's plan was to reverse the Christians' techniques. The Church had taken over Pagan festivals and given them new interpretations. Naziism would in turn co-opt the Christian festivals. Hider was certain that as 'liberal priests' had been so willing to modify their opinions in the light of science, it would not take much effort to convince them to replace the cross with the swastika.

Hitler was, however, strongly opposed to the revival of ancient Nordic cults. He saw the simple revival of the old Paganism of preChristian Germany as useless. On more than one occasion, Hitler attacked Himmler's neo-Paganism as "worse than the Church", a "return of medievalism". Paganism could never claim more than a minority following, which was of no interest to a demagogue who could influence and mobilize millions. Apart from Himmler, who lived in his own private world, other Nazi leaders saw Paganism as a spent force. "Odin is dead" wrote Alfred Rosenberg, though he genuinely regretted the appropriation of Pagan gods and goddesses as Christian saints. The death of Odin, claimed Rosenberg, had been transcended by German mysticism, which he and his followers strove to expound.

As in many things, Hitler's attitude to overt Paganism was ambivalent. Whilst he tolerated Himmler's romantic excesses, Hitler expressly forbade pure Pagan worship. Whilst Nazis must reject the intellect, said Hider, "this must not take the form of the revival of the worship of Odin." Early in the Nazi period, the persecution of professed Odinists began. In 1933 Rudolf von Sebbottendorf was arrested and exiled. The works of Odinist writers like Lanz von Liebenfels, Reinhold Ebertin and Ernst Issberner-Haldane were banned. Even former membership of an Odinist organization automatically disqualified a person from holding office in the Nazi party.

Those who had promoted the cults were useful in accelerating the decline of the Church, asserted Hitler, but in the future, a new religion "rooted in nature and blood" would surface naturally from the indoctrinated race-soul of the peasants. All the time we can see among the Nazi leaders an attempt to synthesize a new system of magic and religion, a sort of radical

traditionalism shorn of the outward signs of the old religion whilst incorporating the working core under a contemporary guise.

Hitler's prediction that 'liberal priests' would sell out their god had been proved correct. As early as 1932, the year before the Nazis' election to office, a small group of Protestants had founded a church party known as the German Christians. Their programme included racist ideas which included the prohibition of intermarriage between Aryan and Jewish Germans, and, with the help of the Nazi party, they won one third of the seats in the Protestant Church Synod. Their leader was a Nazi army chaplain, Ludwig Müller, who had been useful to Hitler before when he converted his commanding officer, General von Blomberg, to National Socialism. When Hitler assumed power, Müller was appointed Nazi representative in the Protestant Church. Later, in September 1933, after much Nazi gerrymandering, Müller was elected Bishop of the Reich at a national synod at Wittenberg.

Hitler's flirtation with the church was solely in the interest of power. Although he needed the Catholic vote in the Reichstag in order to pass the Enabling Act which gave the Nazis absolute power in Germany, his ultimate aim was the utter extirpation of Christianity. However, for the time being, the Churches were still a powerful force, and affairs had to be handled most carefully. Cynically, Hitler paid public respect to the Christian Churches, hailing them as most important elements in the preservation of the nation. Like many revolutionaries by stealth, he knew that given time, insidious undermining would be far more successful than a frontal attack.

The main architect of this plan to undermine Christianity was Alfred Rosenberg. Rosenberg was born in 1893 in the Baltic city of Reval, and was hanged for war crimes at Nuremberg in 1946. An early member of the Nazi party, he was entrusted with the leadership during Hitler's spell in prison in 1924. In 1930, Rosenberg became editor of the *Nationalsozialistische Monatshefte* (Nazi Monthly) and published his most significant book *Der Mythus der 20 Jahrhunderts (The Myth of the Twentieth Century).* This book is essential to the understanding of the occult history which lies at the

roots of Nazi racial theory. Like the blood-and-soil theorist Walther Darré, Rosenberg claimed that all civilization had issued from the efforts of Nordic man. From Ignatius Donnelly and the Theosophists he took the idea that the Aryan race had originated on the lost continent of Atlantis, and from there had spread out through the world in their own 'swan' and 'dragon' ships to found all of the ancient civilizations. Their religion had been the one pure faith from which all others had descended. Naturally, the only pure faith still extant was held by the only pure race, the Nordic Aryans, of whom the Nazis were the guardians.

This occult story of the Aryans' origin was made a justification for Nazi theories about the German *Herrenvolk* – the Master Race. One of the earliest continents settled by the refugee Atlanteans, claimed Rosenberg, was Asia, especially the Indian subcontinent, where, as the master race, the Aryans overran lesser indigenous peoples. There they' instituted the principle of *Varna* – the division of castes according to colour, distinguishing between the white, Aryan, master race, and the darker Dravidian subject-race. Rosenberg believed that the "noble and superior Aryans" in India gradually interbred with the Dravidians and thus their supreme culture was diluted and finally destroyed.

But before this happened, a branch of the Aryan race emigrated from India to Iran, where a new civilization based on the worship of the Divine Light in the form of Ahuramazda was instituted. Zoroaster, the Zarathustra of Nietzsche's famous tract, there formulated an Aryan religion which preached the eternal struggle between Ahuramazda, light, and Ahriman, darkness. According to Rosenberg, the true Nordic-Aryan man should fight on the side of Ahuramazda just as the Einherjar were to fight for Odin in Valhalla against the Fenris-Wolf and the Midgard Serpent. This commitment to Mazdeanism meant that Nordic man should not lose himself in world-shunning introspection or asceticism. Rather, he should free himself to be the struggling bearer of a world-preserving ideal, standing in the "immediate service of the Highest".

Alfred Rosenberg dreamed of the day when a National Reich Church would be set up on the ashes of Christianity. When the old creed was finally extirpated, Rosenberg planned

to restructure religion in the image of the New Order. The Bible was to be suppressed. On the altars of the Reich Churches would be nothing but the Nazi 'bible' – Hitler's *Mein Kampf.* To the left of the altar would be a symbolic sword. A day was to be set when the National Reich Church would become the sole faith of Nazi Europe. "On the day of its foundation", wrote Rosenberg, "the Christian cross must be removed from all churches, cathedrals and chapels and it must be superseded by the only unconquerable symbol – the swastika."

The majority of Nazis did not possess such a hatred of Christianity. Of all the Nazis tried for war crimes at Nuremberg, only Rudolf Hess, Julius Streicher and Alfred Rosenberg refused to attend Sunday services in the Christian chapel of their prison. These three, the only real Nazi mystics of any importance to survive the war, remained adamant to the end. Despite all efforts to persuade him to recant his faith, Rosenberg remained consistently anti-Christian to the gallows.

Rosenberg's espousal of the Mazdean religion was not coincidental, for Mazdeanism gave rise to the Manichaean heresy which lies behind much European occultism. In Nazi terms, this eternal conflict between the powers of darkness and light was "the law of struggle", the occult counterpart of Charles Darwin's "survival of the fittest": that the most powerful was the fittest to survive, and would gain dominion over the weaker. The Manichaeans had taught that the Devil was equal in power and status to God and that the two opposing entities fought through eternity in an everlasting battle for the supremacy of the cosmos. One unorthodox aspect of Manichaean, and later Cathar, belief, derived in part from Jewish Qabalist speculation, was that the entity we call the Devil was the real creator of this world. This being, known as Rex Mundi, King of the World, was the true ruler of matter and things worldly, God being too spiritual and etheric to intervene in such a lowly task.

Several authors have speculated that Hitler and his circle may in fact have been Satanists, followers of Rex Mundi. Martin Bormann, Hitler's deputy, was indeed very keen on wiping out the Church. In 1941 he remarked "National Socialism and Christianity are irreconcilable". This statement,

and the undoubted Manichaean connexion, reinforces the speculations of Nazi Satanism, but it must be remembered that the classical Christian interpretation of Christ's enemies is that they are servants of his opposite, Satan. But Naziism claimed to transcend both good and evil, like the neutral angels who guarded the Grail stone eulogized by Wolfram von Eschenbach. The Nazis sought that power which transcends the mere worship of gods – the ultimate cosmic power that makes man a god in his own right.

In 1945, when Hitler's Reich was in ruins, Pope Pius XII issued an attack upon National Socialist doctrine. He called it "the arrogant apostacy from Jesus Christ, the denial of His doctrine and His work of redemption." Perhaps the Pope had read of Himmler's intentions. When the war was won, Himmler had said, he would personally oversee the public execution of the Pope, so perhaps Pius was justified in keeping quiet until the Reich was in ashes..

But while the Third Reich yet existed, the message to Nazis was clear. Their political system was presented not as a will to power, but as a sacred crusade against those inimical to the Nordic Aryan race, a holy duty to all born with Germanic blood in their veins. Christianity was automatically discounted as the race's religion, for it was based upon the principles of the brotherhood of man and equality regardless of race. Equality of the races was certainly not something Hitler wished to promote!

Once in power, the subversion began almost immediately, and a general vendetta was unleashed against church members. Catholic civil servants were dismissed; the Catholic press was actively discouraged; Catholic youth organizations were infiltrated and Catholic schools were forced to close. Catholic meetings were banned and the Church's property was confiscated by the state. During the 'Night of the long knives', June 30, 1934, several prominent members of Catholic organizations, including Erich Klausener, the leader of Catholic Action, were murdered.

According to the Nazi government, none of these repressive measures was directed against the Church or the faith. They were supposed to be against 'un-German' activities, 'Political Catholicism' against the National Socialist revolution. But in

reality there was a concerted effort to harass and divide, subvert and render impotent the representatives of the Christian faith. In 1934, Rosenberg was put in charge of education in the Third Reich. His influence was felt at once. All members of the party, especially those connected with education, were encouraged to leave the Church. The Ahnenerbe was commissioned to produce old German Pagan calendars and the observance of ancient festivals like Yule were openly preferred to Christian ones.

In 1937, over 100,000 Germans formally resigned from the Catholic Church. Of Nazi leaders, however, only one, Heinrich Himmler, resigned. When several other prominent Nazis considered following suit, Hitler expressly forbade it, for although he hated everything that the Church stood for, he felt that it was premature to make an open declaration of war upon it. Hitler, Goebbels and Goering, among others, remained Roman Catholics in name if not in practice until their very un-Catholic suicides in 1945.

The strange synthesis of Pagan and secular which pervaded Nazi ritual can be seen from the 'National Socialist Calendar'. Although Hitler did not go as far as Mussolini and number the years from his accession to power, a whole Nazi yearly cycle was instituted. The festival year began on January 30, which was called 'The Day of Siezure of Power'. For neo-Pagans, it was suitably close to the ancient festival of Imbolc or Candlemas. In March, the 'Day of Commemoration of Heroes' was observed, followed in April by the celebration of the Führer's birthday on the 20th of that month. May Day, another ancient Pagan festival, was observed by the National Socialists along with other socialists as 'The Day of Labour'. Midsummer followed, complete with the lighting of bonfires and sunwheels at the ancient Pagan geomantic hilltop shrines.

The most solemn of all Nazi festivals was held on November 9, the anniversary of the Kaiser's abdication and Hitler's 1923 Munich *Putsch,* when the 'old fighters' of the Nazi Party marched through Munich to the roll of muffled drums. There was a ritual route, that of the 1923 march, and all along it flags flew at half mast and ceremonial sacrificial bowls of blazing oil stood at intervals. The marchers arrived at the spot where the police opened fire, and from thence to the mausoleum in which

the sixteen lay dead in their iron coffins. During the ceremony, all traffic in Munich was halted, and silence was observed.

The final festival of the Nazi year was Yule, replacing again the Christmas which itself had originally superseded the midwinter festivities. Here, the ancient ceremony of the Yule-lights was re-enacted. In December 1936 Himmler sent a message to all SS-leaders ordering that the festival should be observed. The dying light of the old year, taken up by the new flames of the new year, he wrote, symbolized the continuity of German life from ancient times into the future.

Public ritual in Nazi Germany was overtly religious in tone. A typical example of this quasi-service was *The Litany of Labour.* Enacted at the Reich Labour Service rally at the Nuremberg Festival, September 8, 1937, the event was structured just like a Church ritual.

The service began with the ringing of bells. Girls of the Labour Service marched up to the flag and sang:

> Salute the Flag. Salute the Emblems.
> Salute the Fuhrer, their creator.
> Salute all those who for them died.
> Loyally obey the summons.
> From all enemies that threaten
> Night and day, we'll guard the flag.
> We may triumph, we may perish,
> But the flag remains unstained.

Pennons were hoisted and flags raised. A voice called out the *Summons:*

"Here for the fourth great celebration, to consecrate ourselves to new high tasks, firmly we stand before our People and Führer, on sacred ground beneath our waving flags with hearts receptive, ready to obey."

All the celebrants of the litany responded with the shout: "We are ready!" A male chorus followed, extolling the virtues of the Führer's 'mission'. Then another voice declaimed a solemn pledge to the Fatherland; the men shouted "Germany!" and a fanfare sounded.

Four voices in turn, representatives of the fourfold division of society (an echo of the old Indian Aryan caste system

Himmler wished to reintroduce), sounded out proclaiming thanks to Germany for food, fuel and protection and pledging the transformation of barren lands to fruitful earth. Further hymns to Germany, the countryside, motherhood and work were followed by four further voices, one each for the north, south, east and west. After yet another chorus of spade-wielding yeomen, the solemn remembrance of the fallen: muffled drums sounded. A voice declaimed a eulogy of the slain; the flags were lowered and three wreaths were hung on the 'Labour Memorial' "For freedom and the glory of the Reich".

Then rebirth was signalled by the men's chorus: "Our day will also come, We are ready for- the call, But our proud flag shall freely fly for evermore." The banners rose again, a fanfare sounded and the *Vow* was taken, a lone voice alternating with the multitudes in the manner of a priest and his parishioners. "So in this solemn hour we pray for blessing on the Oath we take. We thank thee, Führer, that we now have seen thee. Do thou behold us as thine own creation, may our hearts ever beat with thy heart's pulses, our lives find inspiration in thy love. Behold us here! Thy Germany are we!"

A final hymn rang out: "God bless the Führer in this hour, God help us to reclaim the land, To serve the Reich with deep devotion—" Bells sounded and the festival was over.

Astonishing quasi-religious rituals like this were enacted every week in Nazi Germany. Hitler, the Nazi Party and the Reich took the place of Christ and the saints in acts of worship of secular gods. And the energies they raised, too, were of the order of religious experiences. A direct attempt to usurp the Churches, Hitler believed, was useless. How much better to outdo them at their own game and psychically influence the nation at the same time!

Rituals were repeated on a smaller scale at every level. The Litany of Labour was equivalent to a Mass at St Peter's celebrated by the Pope, but there were also the local celebrations at lesser 'chapels'. Each boy's camp had its elaborate fire ritual; every Nazi funeral had neo-Pagan rites and throughout the Reich, banners, processions and ceremonies kept alive the belief that each Nazi was a member of a greater whole, a great fellowship bound by faith and symbol. There were even Nazi

naming ceremonies for babies. A swastika-draped altar, adorned with a photograph of the Führer and an open copy of *Mein Karnpf,* was tended by a member of the SS in the role of priest. We can be sure that not many Germans alive today have kept their 'christening' photograph if they were named at one of these rituals.

Just as the Nazi ceremonies infiltrated the calendar, and human activities from the cradle to the grave, the Nazis had sacred cities where different rituals in the official Reich year were enacted. All Nazis turned first to Munich as a moslem does to Mecca. There Hitler created the 'holy martyrs' shrine', mausoleum of 16 Nazis who died in the *Putsch.* There, too, was kept the 'blood flag' carried in the abortive rebellion.

In ancient times, great national assemblies, for example the Icelandic *Althing,* were designed so as to mirror the actual layout of the country. People from the north would stand to the north, those from the west on the western side, and so on. Local representatives from each profession or trade would be present there in their appointed positions. In this way, an actual physical microcosm of the whole nation would be assembled at a special place and time, divined by geomants and astrologers, in order to perform the sacred business. The Nuremberg Rallies were rather similar. "A complete microcosm of the Reich", wrote a correspondent in the newspaper *Der Montag,* "was to be seen at Nuremberg during the days August 31st – September 3rd 1933."

In the Nuremberg Rallies, all the power of propaganda and subtle influences came together. The town was bedecked with millions of swastika flags. Martial music and verbal propaganda blared from loudspeakers on every lamp-post. Ceaseless ranks of brownshirts, SS, Labour Corps, Hitler Youth, Army, Navy and Airforce personnel marched hither and thither; almost a million people crammed into a small city. So many parades were held that the local authorities had to put the tramways underground in order to keep public transport running (a similar event had occurred in the Kaiser's Berlin).

The rallies were overwhelming in every sense of the word, designed to bludgeon the senses and numb the mind. March-pasts lasting eight hours were not uncommon, a constant flow of goose-stepping legions marching into and out of a vast

geomantically-designed Roman-style stadium. Massive rallies on this scale had a twofold purpose: they intimidated opposition within and outside Germany; and they raised vast psychic energies to be manipulated for evil by Hitler the occult initiate. Magicians like Aleister Crowley would have given their right arm for such a reservoir of directable psychical energy.

Ceremonies in commemoration of dead Nazis were awesome and bizarre, as if the spirits of the dead were being literally evoked. One held in 1937 was most notable, for the assembled multitude had to stand to attention whilst the names of 400 dead Nazis were read out. At another, a vast assembly of SS and SA men filled the parade ground with a wide pathway left between their ranks. Suddenly there was silence. Hitler, followed by Himmler and Lutze, slowly and solemnly walked the whole length of the stadium along the path between the ranks. They approached a 'sacred fire' burning in an urn at the end, stood there for a moment, and then walked back, all in total silence. A vast act of mass ritual magic on an unprecedented scale was being enacted.

Whilst Hitler's approach to the Christian religion in Germany was to supplant it by his own mass rituals, in occupied Europe the spiritual side of life was treated somewhat differently. In Czechoslovakia and Poland, for example, the churches were ruthlessly suppressed. The many popular pilgrimages held in Czechoslovakia were seen as focal points for nationalism and consequently were banned. Church property was seized, and the ecclesiastical universities closed down. A prayer which was traditionally said after Mass, in which the Archangel Michael was called upon to destroy Satan and Evil Spirits which work for the destruction of souls, was suppressed by the Nazis. They felt that prayers for the destruction of Satan were too near the mark! Even the motto of a Czech Catholic newspaper "The people that retains its faith will never perish" was censored – the SS realized all too well the truth of this.

When the Nazis arrived in Poland in 1939, they set about a systematic destruction of Polish churches. It was the avowed intent of the Nazi invaders to wreck every Polish place of worship they could find. This was especially true of the smaller towns like Szydlowiec, Ostrowiec and Krasnik. It was estimated after the war that over 90 per cent of Polish sacred buildings

were desecrated or razed, including, of course, every synagogue.

In December 1940, Gauleiter Weiss announced that the Polish church should be crushed as it was a bastion of anti-German resistance, so the Polish language was forbidden in all church services, Catholic weddings and funerals were forbidden, and eventually the vast majority of the Polish priesthood found its way to the concentration camps. All prayers to the Virgin Mary, under the Polish title of 'Our Lady, Queen of the Polish Crown', and all prayers, hymns, feasts and saints with any patriotic significance were expunged from the truncated rituals which were still allowed. All of these measures had a twofold purpose: firstly to suppress the Christianity to which Naziism was mortally opposed; and secondly to break the Polish nation prior to its extermination.

Norway, however, shows us how the Nazis treated religion in a 'racially acceptable' country. Their puppet government under the infamous Quisling attempted to revive a neo-Pagan sun-worship as the national faith and stamp out Christianity. Much was made of Quisling's symbol, the Sun-Cross, Norwegian equivalent of the Nazi swastika. One of the few pro-Nazi clergymen, Sigmund Feyling, was put in charge of the nascent faith, and began to produce propaganda amalgamating Nordic racism with ancient Norse paganism and selected Christian themes. A catechism was produced in which obedience to the Leader (Quisling) was laid down as the most important interpretation of the Fifth Commandment.

Resistance to this neo-Paganism was great, and on February 1, 1942 occurred a major act of Christian objection to the new creed. In the cathedral city of Trondheim, a detachment of local Norwegian fascists had decided to hold a Pagan ceremony to celebrate Quisling's appointment as Prime Minister. The ceremony was to be in the Cathedral, as the Norwegian Nazis had been told by German geomants that it was the key point in Norway's sacred geography. The ceremony, or consecration, was to be typically Nazi in content, involving bringing Quisling's neo-Pagan banners into the Cathedral.

The Dean, Dr Fjellbu, refused them permission on the grounds that to bring the Sun-Cross into a Christian building would be blasphemous. The ceremony would also interrupt a

communion scheduled to take place at the same time, so Fjellbu decided to go ahead with the communion as planned. A vast crowd gathered before the appointed hour, and although forced back by armed guards, sang the famous Lutheran hymn "A safe stronghold our God is still". Although the Sun-Crosses were carried in and Quisling was 'consecrated' with full Nazi ritual, the strength of Christian feeling was obvious, as was the people's distaste for dictatorship.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Perverted Chivalry – Himmler's SS

THE BLACK ORDER

It has often been observed that 'fantasy' literature sometimes prefigures future events. Whether this is because of unconscious precognition by the author, or because the book itself becomes self-fulfilling prophecy is a matter of speculation. However, in 1896 was published what is perhaps the most remarkable precognitive novel ever printed: M. P. Shiel, an English author, penned a curious fantasy which tells of a group of callous murderers ravaging Europe, exterminating those they considered hindered the progress of humanity, and cremating their bodies. The title of the book was *The S.S.*

Four years after this 'absurdly fanciful' novel was published, on October 7 1900 Heinrich Himmler was born at Munich. Here was the person who would make Shiel's fantasy a harsh reality. Himmler was the son of a devout Roman Catholic schoolmaster who had at one time been the private tutor of Prince Heinrich of Bavaria, after whom he was named. Too young to see service in the Great War, Himmler was only an Officer Cadet when the Kaiser's Reich collapsed. In the immediate post-war period, he took up the study of agriculture which led to an obsessive interest in heredity, paving the road to Auschwitz twenty years later.

With the rise of many para-military political parties in the early 20s, Himmler joined the fledgling Nazi party and in 1923 took part in Hitler's Munich *Putsch.* This led to a partial and temporary eclipse of the Nazis, the imprisonment of Hitler in Landsberg Castie for a mere ten months, and the imprisonment

of Ernst Röhm, head of Hitler's brownshirt stormtroops, the SA. During the imprisonment of the Nazi leadership, Himmler was taken on by the Strasser brothers, Otto and Gregor, who were in temporary control of the party. On Hitler's release, Himmler took on additional power. Hitler had given up the idea of armed revolution, and began a campaign for legal power which successfully ended with his election in January 1933. During that period Ernst Röhm temporarily gave up his position as leader of the SA and emigrated to Bolivia to act as a military advisor in the forthcoming Chaco War. In 1926, Himmler was promoted to the post of deputy leader of the *Schutzstaffel* – Protection Units – better known and feared as the SS. Formed originally in 1922 as a personal bodyguard for Hitler, the SS under Himmler became transformed into something quite different.

By the age of 28, Himmler had been promoted to the head of the SS with the grand title *Reichsführer-SS*, the rank he held until the destruction of the Third Reich a mere seventeen years later. In 1929, however, the SS was not the feared and hated organization it was later to become. Subordinate to the then mighty SA, the SS numbered a mere 200 men. Behind the scenes Himmler worked incessantly for the growth of his private empire. Not for him the glory of public speaking – he left that to Goebbels and Hitler. Working long hours for little pay in his office, Himmler plotted for the taking of power which would enable him to implement his dream – the creation of the Master Race, a new Aryan warrior caste which would rule the world.

In his dreams of *the* New Order, Himmler was thinking not only of the new political order championed by Hitler, but also of a new biological and spiritual order. This new order was to change the course of civilization, science and religion, and at the heart of it was to be the magic empire of the Black Order of the SS. Or so Himmler thought. From his young days, the agrarian in Himmler had led him to regard the peasantry as the backbone of the German nation. "The yeoman on his own acre," wrote the SS chief, "is the backbone of the German people's strength and character." This grounding of racial stock – blood – with ancestral place – soil – was soon to be elevated into a whole doctrine, a theoretical groundbase of

German racial supremacy. Himmler's friends in Bavaria bought a farm and let him have access to it in order to try out his idea of a 'peasant school'. This school was to be the core of a 'back to the land' movement which Himmler envisaged as the future of Germany; the eventual dismantling of most of industry and the recreation of a healthy, self-reliant, self-sufficient and racially-pure peasant society.

The dream of the peasant on his own acre had been the driving force behind the Baltic Freikorps adventure of 1919-20, and many former Freikorps members still cherished the idea of self-sufficient farming. Originally, Himmler envisaged this society in Germany, but in later years this was to be combined with the Reich's expansion eastward. For a model of this peasant Utopia, Himmler harked back to the days of the First Reich, a thousand years earlier. He was a natural hero-worshipper and the greatest of his heroes was King Heinrich der Vogler (Henry the Fowler), founder of the First Reich. King of Saxony and conqueror of the Slavs, he was described by Himmler as "The noble peasant of his people".

Around this time (1926-28), Himmler became connected with a strange movement known as the Artamanen. This politico-religious body was dedicated to the idea of the owner-settler. Although most of the Artamans were not Nazi party members, they swore by 'blood and soil' and vowed that they would re-conquer and re-colonize Europe for Germany. In 1924, the first Artaman group set up on an estate in Saxony to practise their doctrine of self-reliance; soon over 2000 youths had occupied farms in eastern Germany and armed themselves for the forthcoming fight against the Slavs. The Artamanen movement was so noticeable that the novelist Hanns Nikol in 1924 published a book titled *Das Neue Leben (The New Life)* about the genesis of the movement.

Among the ranks of the Artamanen were several men whose later careers were to make them notorious: in Brandenburg was Rudolf Höss, destined to become commandant of the Auschwitz death camp; and Richard Walther Darré, an agrarian racist from Argentina educated in England. Darré believed that everything important was linked with race, and according to his philosophy the peasantry had "always formed the only reliable basis for our people from the point of view of blood."

The state, he wrote, must therefore expand the peasant class by rural resettlement, reversing the drift towards the towns. Darré was another of that peculiar school of thought that all the great cultures of the world had been founded by men of Nordic blood. He wrote several books on the 'blood and soil' theme, all of which were supported by Himmler. Darré claimed that all the great civilizations of the past had fallen because their people did not keep their Nordic blood pure. As a result of this 'discovery', Darré recommended that to prevent the collapse of modern German culture, all internationalist and humanist organizations ought to be suppressed. These organizations ranged from Anarchism and Communism to Freemasonry, Rosicrucianism and Christianity, all of which preached the universal brotherhood of mankind, threatening the purity of the Nordic race.

Darré's racist ideas, like the earlier theories of Paul de Lagarde, were incorporated by Himmler into his wider occult vision of the universal order. As the continuation of civilization depended upon the purity of the Nordic race, reasoned Himmler, then this race must possess some special mystic or psychic powers denied to lesser humanity. The mystic actualization of a magic race of potential supermen was only possible when they were in their rightful place, in intimate contact with the holy soil of their homeland.

The Artamanen faded into nothingness like so many movements, but Darré was recruited into the SS where he was put in charge of the new *Rasse und Siedlungsamt* (Race and Resettlement Office). Darré used this as a means of access to the Reich Ministry of Agriculture, where he was able to put his theories about self-sufficiency into action. One of his more beneficial, edicts was the re-afforestation of waste and derelict land. On the negative side, his office promoted anti-Semitic propaganda and finally the extermination of the Jews and Gypsies.

The wartime atrocities of the SS might make one imagine that the vast majority of its members were subnormal sadists, yet it has been estimated that no fewer than one in four actually possessed the degree of Doctor. In 1933, shortly after the Nazis gained power, Himmler invited a select audience of scholars, industrialists, officers and landowners to a private address. Apprehensive of the recent propaganda against intellectuals

and the upper classes, many expected to be the butt of a fanatical diatribe. Yet precisely the opposite happened. Himmler called upon the elite gathered there to "assist in directing into the SS all the various currents of tradition." Every state needed an elite, he asserted, and in Nazi Germany that was the SS. But the SS, he continued, could only be effective if its members "brought to the social requirements of the present day the genuine military tradition, the distinctive outlook, bearing and breeding of German nobility, and the creative efficiency of the industrialist, on a basis of racial selection." Such a statement, at first received with astonishment, was given a standing ovation, and the audience joined the SS practically to a man.

From the beginning the SS regiments were an elite corps. To instil in the soldiery a sense of elite continuity, Himmler revived the old Imperial regimental names from the Kaiser's Reich. Echoing the exclusive Prussian Knights of the Black Eagle, an order founded in 1701, the SS regiments received such titles as Totenkopf, Liebstandarte, Hohenstauffen, das Reich; names which rang with the heroic military deeds of past victories. Like the Death's Head Hussars of Frederick the Great and the Life Guards of the King of Bavaria, the new SS regiments would serve the Third Reich in its 'finest hour'.

In addition to the old-fashioned military model, Himmler consciously based his SS upon the Jesuit Order. The Jesuits' founder, Ignatius Loyola (1491-1566), set up a command-structure of initiates which Himmler followed almost to the letter. Just as the Jesuits had become the religious wing of the Spanish Empire, so Himmler saw his fledgling SS playing the same role in the 'Thousand-Year Reich'. Although ostensibly orthodox, the Jesuits made detailed studies of astrology, sacred geometry, geomancy and symbolism. Their monasteries and churches were laid out according to the ancient canons of siting and proportion derived from pre-Christian tradition. Likewise, the shrines of the SS. In the Americas, the Jesuits took over the ancient holy sites for the spiritual and psychic conquest of the country. Similarly, the SS sought out and purchase key points on German ley lines.

Ignatius Loyola was a Basque. To Himmler, this was important, for some German occultists had claimed that the

Basque people was the last remnant of the Atlantean race. Loyola's famous spiritual exercises had been derived from the monks of Monserrat monastery – a Benedictine holy mountain. Himmler believed that these exercises had been handed down from the Masters of Atlantis, and that now he was the man chosen by 'higher powers' to use them in the reactivation of Vril for the dominance of the Teutonic race over all others.

The connexion of geomancy with conquest has been discussed in chapter 8 with regard to Europe, but it is not commonly appreciated that the same thing occurred in North America. Although Arizona, New Mexico and California are now integral parts of the United States, they were originally colonized by Spanish settlers. Many of the famous towns of California that bear the names of saints are the sites of missions founded by Spanish monastic orders, and many, if not all, occupy the sites of former native holy places. In Arizona and Lower California, these missions were founded by Jesuits. In the 1690s, under the Jesuit Eusebio Francisco Kino (an Italian), a mathematician and geographer educated at Ingoldstadt, the peninsula of California was laid out for his order. In 1732, his work was continued by a new band of Jesuits, mainly German, named Keler, Sedelmayr, Steiger, Grashofer and Paver. Forty years later, the Jesuits were expelled from California, and the founding of missions was entrusted to the Franciscan Order. Originating at the College of San Fernado in Mexico City, in 1769 these friars sailed up the western coast of America to their new mission. At Monterey, they founded a mission in the same place where 168 years earlier Father Asensión had said mass under a spreading Oak tree. Los Angeles, Santa Bárbara, San Diego de Alcalá, San José, Soledad, Santa Monica, San Gabriel Arcángel, San Juan Capistrano and San Francisco de Asís were all founded at the end of the eighteenth century by Franciscan sacred geographers. In all, 21 permanent missions were built between the first, San Diego de Alcalá, in 1769, and the last, San Francisco Solano, in 1823. California was psychically 'pinned down' in the way that the rest of North America was not.

Along the coast from San Diego to San Francisco stretched a chain of missions, situated so that the lands were divided

equally between them. Each mission formed a virtually autonomous patriarchal state under the Padre's autocratic rule, backed up by the soldiers of the Spanish Empire. The monasteries were finally dissolved under an order of the Spanish government in 1813, which was not enforced in California until the mid-1820s. The mission system then collapsed, the natives reverted to their old ways, and the United States finally occupied California in 1846.

These monastic orders were in a unique position to synthesize the geomantic arts of east and west. Steeped in arcane Qabalistic lore, alchemy, astrology and the psychic sciences, the Jesuits had been the driving-force behind Spain's messianic counter-reformation and the dreaded inquisition. Through this hideous institution they gained secret knowledge from suppressed occult orders which they then turned to their own advantage. Himmler, too, had his own inquisition, the Gestapo, a useful tool with which to extract all sorts of information, some of it occult. The Jesuits had shown what an organization armed with these secrets could do in a conquered land – suffuse the nation with spiritual power, as they saw it, the Holy Spirit. Himmler's SS, steeped in Jesuit methods, also dreamed of suffusing the world with their own evil brand of psychic control.

The SS-Jesuit parallel goes far beyond resemblances in occult methodology. Novitiate for a Jesuit lasts for two years, followed by several years of tuition and study. Finally the Priest takes his vows. Here the SS was structured just like the Society of Jesus. Some Jesuits take simple vows. In the SS there was an ordinary rank-and-file. Other Jesuits take special vows and are considered 'professed'. They are the elite of the Society. In the SS this group comprised the inner 'priesthood' – the Black Order.

The stages of candidature for the SS were as ritualized and formal as any religious society. On November 9, the *Putsch* anniversary, the 18-year-old candidate was accepted as an applicant. He was allowed to wear the SS uniform without the collar patches. On January 30, anniversary of the Nazi accession to power, the applicant became a cadet and received his official SS pass. On April 20, Hitler's birthday, the cadet received his collar patches and his permanent SS pass. At a

solemn ceremony, the cadet avowed: "I swear to thee, Adolf Hitler, as Führer and Chancellor of the German Reich, loyalty and bravery. I vow to thee and to the superiors whom thou shalt appoint obedience unto death, so help me God."

Even this fearsome oath was not the end. Between the oath-taking on April 20 and entry into service on October 1, the entrant had to win the Reich Sport Badge and learn the SS catechism by heart. This catechism, based upon that of the Christian church, was intended to inculcate the Nazi ethos into the candidate. By questions and answers, the belief-system of the SS was explained and defined. "Why do we believe in Germany and the Führer?" said the catechism. Answer: "Because we believe in God, we believe in Germany which He created in His world, and in the Führer, Adolf Hitler, whom He has sent us." In this SS catechism, the messianic fantasies of Hitler were played upon to the full.

One of the commonest features of self-proclaimed messiahs is their authoritarianism. Their reason is simple: they identify their institutionalized authority with the Will of God. In their authority, they assert, resides the Divine Will, which is therefore irresistable; for to resist authority is to resist the Will of God, which is blasphemy. The Nazis insisted on a literally religious devotion to their Führer: obedience was the watchword, an obedience which led men to perpetrate the worst possible crimes in the name of chivalrous loyalty. Mass murderers like Adolf Eichmann were totally subordinated to the will of their superiors, becoming no more than mere instruments, like millions of other willing slaves in a system where slavish obedience was the cardinal virtue.

This religious authoritarianism was not of Hitler's making – it dated from the Kaiser's Reich. On December 10 1891, Kaiser Wilhelm II had given an address to new recruits at Potsdam in which he encapsulated the whole attitude: "Recruits – You have now sworn allegiance to me in the presence of a priest of God, and before this altar. You have sworn allegiance to *me.* This means you are now *my* soldiers. You have given yourselves to me, body and soul. You know henceforth only one enemy – *my* enemy… I may order you to shoot down your own relatives, your brothers or even your

parents – which certainly God forbid! – but even then you must obey my orders without question."

In the natural successor to the Kaiser's Reich, Nazi Germany, the 'divine appointment' of Hitler was emphasised over and over again. Messianic slogans, including the hideous "By resisting the Jews, I strive for the work of the Lord", bedecked hoardings and even churches, for Hitler claimed that his work was a divine crusade for Germany against all those whom he believed to be against the 'inevitable' rise of the *Herrenvolk.* All who opposed Naziism were seen as agents in opposition to the divine plan for the world, a world in which Aryan, especially Teutonic, supremacy was the natural order of things.

In Nazi mythology, the SS-man was the future hope of the race, and we see this emphasised in the final ceremony of the applicant's transition to full membership. Having satisfactorily completed his service to the Reich Labour Corps and the Army, the candidate had to swear one final oath in order to become a fully-fledged SS member. In this oath, taken on the Nazis' 'holy day' of November 9, the member bound himself and his future family to obey the racial law promulgated by Himmler on December 31, 1931: that SS members could marry only "if the necessary conditions of race and healthy stock were fulfilled". Now the young SS man received his SS insignia, which conferred upon him special duties and priveleges closed to 'lesser' mortals. Bearing the Vehmic letters SS in runic script, the insignia echoed the ancient rights of the *Schöffen* of the Vehm. Being an organization set apart from ordinary society, the SS had a privileged legal status. Scharfe, head of the SS legal service, had decided that no state court, not even a Nazi party court, had the right to judge an SS man. It was the sole prerogative of superior SS officers. By disrupting the ancient legal system whereby no person was above the law, the Nazis had made the first step in reconstituting the ancient Aryan caste system – a return to feudalism.

This hierarchical structure of society was echoed in the structure of all Nazi organisations. Many occult orders have been divided into three grades of initiation, and the SS was no exception. The Freemasons in general recognize three degrees of initiation; the academic degrees are similar – bachelor, master and doctor. Even the ancient Celtic priesthood was

divided into bards, ovates and druids. Himmler divided the SS 'priests' and 'high priests' of the Black Order from the 'lay brothers' in an organization based upon the medieval monastic orders of chivalry, the Knights Templar and Teutonic Knights, whom Himmler deliberately set out to emulate. In Himmler's order, there were three insignia. Proven SS men, irrespective of rank, were entitled to wear a silver death's head signet ring. Originally awarded to the 'old guard' with membership numbers below 10,000, by 1939 it had been extended to almost every SS commander who had held a senior post for three years.

The dagger was the symbol of the SS corps of leaders. Representative of the ancient chivalry Himmler claimed to imitate, the dagger was granted only to SS men of the rank of *Oberstürmführer* and upwards. Unlike the ring, bestowal of the dagger was the prerogative of Himmler only, but graduates of the Cadet Schools automatically received a dagger on successfully taking their final examinations.

Above this elite, a further inner elite existed. Himmler was much taken with the archaic rites of the Teutonic Knights, Barbarossa and King Arthur, and, in imitation of these heroes' hierarchies, he chose his twelve best *Obergruppenführers* to act as his disciples. A comparison between the SS and the chivalric orders is illuminating. Only carefully selected knights could join Barbarossa or the Round Table; those who were not only masters of the martial arts, but who possessed the knightly virtues of fortitude, valour and loyalty. Thinking was not one of the knightly arts, obedience to higher authority being the guiding principle. In Arthurian legend, the decisions were made by the magical technologist Merlin; in Nazi Germany by the self-proclaimed 'messiah', Hitler.

The function of medieval knights was to create order in the land. Each knight was seen as the image of the higher man, in Arthurian terms the Christ; in Nazi terms the new superman. Like the medieval orders of chivalry, the Nazi SS was intended to create and impose a feudal system upon 'lesser' humanity. The parallels are unmistakeable, and Himmler deliberately stressed them in both ritual and public relations. In the east, Himmler sought to carve out feudal domains for the SS, re-creating the medieval Ordensstaat of the Teutonic

Knights. The Teutonic Knights had been dedicated to suppressing non-Germanic nations of the east, like the SS. A meticulous bureaucracy existed in both the Teutonic Order and the SS: a dossier was kept on each member; financial and legal archives were preserved, and the orders both ran their own schools.

The commanderies and headquarters of the Teutonic and SS orders were both military and religious centres. Their fortresses were called *Ordensburgen,* and both the Teutonic Knights and the SS employed geomants to determine the most auspicious sites for them. Several famous Teutonic knights were mystics; like some SS members. One notable Teutonic work, the *Mainauer Naturlehre,* compiled by Hugo von Langenstein in about 1290, details in mystical terms geography, astronomy and medicine.

Himmler's hatred of the Jews followed the Teutonic Knights, for no Jew was alloweed to settle in any part of the Ordensstaat; indeed all the elements of German supremacy existed there: the exclusion of Jews, the suppression and extermination of the local population, and the reduction of the survivors to slavery. It is no coincidence that the chief architect of Nazi racism, Alfred Rosenberg, was a Baltic German born at Reval, in the heartland of the old Ordensstaat.

The career of the SS in Poland and the east curiously echoed the atrocities of the Teutonic Order – every winter the chivalric knights mounted Slav-hunting expeditions. Such Western luminaries as Henry of Derby, later King Henry IV of England, are known to have participated. Massacre and extermination were the order of the day, as again six centuries later. Ironically, the SS were to meet their doom just as the Teutonic knights did – overcome by the combined forces of the Poles, Tartars, Czechs and Lithuanians.

CHAPTER TWELVE

Lost Cities of Atlantis

Germany has always been noted for its ingenuity and scholarship, and in studying the byways of history we find German experts everywhere. During the last century, German scientists made a major contribution to the understanding of prehistory, and, in an era of great academic freedom, their thoughts turned to cataclysms and lost civilizations. Although the evidence for great cataclysmic changes in the history of our planet are everywhere obvious, it has not been until recent years that official science has taken it seriously.

The best evidence for cataclysmic change is evident from various remains in the arctic. The most celebrated and enigmatic of these remains are, the frozen mammoths. As early as 1799 a Russian named Ossip Shumakhov discovered a fully-preserved mammoth frozen in the ice at the mouth of the River Lena. Four years later, he led an ivory dealer named Bultunov to the mammoth and sold him the tusks for fifty roubles. Unlike most ivory dealers, Bultunov recorded the find by drawings which he sent to the Academy at St Petersburg. The news of the find reached the English zoologist Henry Adams, who in 1806 organized an expedition to recover the remains. Although much decomposition had occurred, there were still fragments of skin. These were covered with woolly hair. Zoologists asserted that the animal, like its contemporary, the Woolly Rhinoceros, must have been adapted to the cold. If so, what did these extremely large animals eat? And what exterminated the whole species? Later work was to come up with a startling answer to these questions.

One astonishing fact is that Siberia did not experience the last Ice Age. The New Siberian Islands, largely unexplored

until a century ago, are composed of the remains of forests. Eduard von Toll, who visited them between 1885 and 1902, described them as consisting of carbonized tree trunks with the impressions of leaves and fruits still visible. One island was composed not only of tree remains, but also of the dismembered bodies of mammoth and other extinct animal species. A moving glacier would have mangled and razed any traces of organic matter, yet there the remains were permanently frozen. Vast herds of mammouh and rhinoceros had suddenly become entombed in permafrost. They even had the remains of their last meals still in their stomachs.

Obviously a gradual onset of cold over thousands of years cannot explain the phenomenon. A sudden cataclysm that swept away an entire species, entombing the creatures in mud which froze immediately never to melt again, is the only explanation. But what could have caused this catastrophe? And was there a human civilization on Earth at the time?

Such a sudden temperature change is consistent with a cosmic collision. If a minor planetoid had collided with the Earth at that time, the consequent shift in the polar positions would have flung formerly temperate areas into the new arctic. The seas, chaotically flung over the land, would have obliterated all low-lying areas with tidal waves of appalling dimensions. Any civilization would have been obliterated, and very few survivors would have been left to remember the disaster in their mythologies. Atlantis, or any other ancient civilization, could have been exterminated at this time.

If some civilization had existed in what is now prehistory, scholars thought, then traces of it might still exist if the correct locality were examined. Various ideas and suggestions were put forward throughout the nineteenth century, until the interests of occultists removed it from the sphere of official science. After that, lost civilization research became considered as 'crank'. Atlantis was a popular theme in Theosophical writings, and Hitler himself wrote: "In all human traditions, whether oral or written, one finds mention of a huge cosmic disaster … In my view the thing is explicable only by the hypothesis of a disaster that completely destroyed a humanity which already possessed a high degree of civilization. The fragments of our prehistory are perhaps mere reproductions of objects

belonging to a more distant past …" The Nazi interest in lost lands was more than academic, for it offered the prospect of evidence for an Aryan super-civilization pre-dating all other cultures.

According to Theosophical teachings, and, we are assured, Tibetan lore, the Atlantean race survived on the fringes of that once-great empire, and traces may be found even today. Nazi racists were keen on discovering these remains and establishing their lineage from Atlantis. But where was Atlantis? In the decades preceding Hitler's supremacy, German scholars sought to establish its whereabouts. As far back as 1665 the Jesuit Father Athanasius Kircher had published a map showing the island in the mid-Atlantic, but during the 1920s, the balance of opinion amongst German experts favoured Tartessos. This city, captured and destroyed by the Carthaginians in 533 BC, is believed to underly the present Spanish city of Seville. Professors Schulten, Herman, Hennig and Jessen asserted that Tartessos was nothing less than the original Atlantis. Jessen listed Plato's famous descriptions of the lost city, and showed, point by point, how it tallied with known facts on Tartessos.

Other German scholars of the Nationalist school however asserted that Tartessos had been a German colony, not Atlantean. This school of thought favoured North Africa as the site of Atlantis. In 1926, P.Borchard claimed that the blue-eyed, fair-skinned Berbers there were the racial remnant of Atlantis, and attempted to trace in the names of Berber tribes the legendary names, of the Ten Sons of Poseidon. One tribe was called Uneur, a name very like Euneor, Plato's legendary first inhabitant of Atlantis.

But North Africa was not the only place studied by Atlantis enthusiasts. Some German antiquaries placed the island in the North Sea (where stone-age tools are occasionally dredged up), or in Mecklenburg in Germany itself. Hitler later proposed to site his new capital city at Mecklenburg, on the precise site of this 'Atlantis', but the plan was subsequently dropped. With the continuing impasse on locating Atlantis, many researchers turned to examining mythologies of existing cultures which might have been derived from Atlantis. The members of the Thule Society were adepts at this, proving from the *Edda* that

Ragnarök, the Twilight of the Gods, was actually a historical account of the overwhelming of Thule by volcanic activity. This cataclysmic vulcanism was explicable in Hörbiger's terms, for Hörbiger had claimed that man was already civilized 20,000 years ago, and that their civilization had been wiped out when an earlier moon had crashed to earth. The falling moon had submerged all the tropical countries in a universal deluge, leaving survivors only in the mountains of Ethiopia and Peru.

According to Hörbiger's followers Hans Bellamy and Arthur Posnansky, the ancient Peruvian cities of Tiahuanaco and Macchu Picchu date from that unimaginably remote era. They were the last refuges of the Atlantean Master Race, and at the time were seaports, not mountain cities. None other than Charles Darwin of evolution fame can be used as corroboration for this, as on one of his voyages he noted sea shells of modern type high up in the Andean mountains – evidence for a cataclysmic uplift.

German explorers were convinced by travellers' tales that lost cities of an Aryan super-race still existed somewhere in the Matto Grosso of South America. Madame Blavatsky had noted that a god named Votan had been worshipped in Central and South America, and he had been identified with Wotan (Odin), chief god of the Germanic pantheon. Tales of Odin-worshipping Brazilian indians, mixed with medieval legends of Hy Brasil, die paradise of the west, were enough to convince German racists that here were the remains of Atlantean civilization.

This 'civilization' was reputed to possess magical powers, or at least an alternative technology; a light burning without fire; a language related to Sanscrit; natives with blue eyes… Such themes fired the imagination of explorers like Colonel Fawcett, who disappeared in the Matto Grosso in 1925. In the first decade of this century, Krupp of Essen sponsored a large expedition of armed men, pack animals and native guides into the Matto Grosso in search of these lost cities. It was a fiasco from which very few returned. Another mysterious expedition to the legendary cities of Brazil was mounted in 1926-27 by a German scientist from Hamburg. It is reputed to have discovered an ancient pyramid covered with hieroglyphics, but nothing of any importance was ever published. Finally, in

about 1932, the great German aviator Hugo Eckener proposed to fly over the impenetrable Brazilian jungles in the airship *Graf Zeppelin*, but the expedition never materialized.

Another possibility was the Antarctic. The first German expedition there was in 1873, and in 1901 and 1911 further forays were made into the frozen continent. By Hitler's day, interest in the Southern Continent had been reawakened by Hörbiger's studies on cosmic ice. Tales of lost cities miraculously kept warm by volcanic activity also circulated among German Atlantologists. Like the South American and Himalayan 'lost cities', this supposed Antarctic civilization was reputed to be tlie remnant of Atlantean culture.

In 1938, Hider sent an expedition to 'Neu Schwabenland' (now called Queen Maud Land) in the Antarctic. Aircraft dropped small swastika flags all over the territory to claim it for the Reich. Hitler's intentions were partly territorial, partly to further orthodox polar research and partly to corroborate Hörbiger's claims. What became of the base, and its findings, are shrouded in mystery. It is thought that a secret U-boat base was established there, for several years after the fall of the Third Reich, a military expedition under Admiral Byrd left the United States for that very territory, now claimed by Norway. Reports of US aircraft losses baldly stated 'destroyed by enemy action'. Perhaps this southernmost Nazi base was the final remaining outpost of the Third Reich. Byrd's now-famous flight where he is said to have entered uncharted territory, thought by some to be into the 'inner world' of a hollow earth, took place at this time. Perhaps he was following up Nazi research, for their interest in the Hollow Earth Theory is well known. Even if he did not enter any uncharted lands, the garbled account of the 'hollow earth' trip may have originated in Nazi documents seized during the expedition.

Another place where the Atlantis-Hollow Earth connexion has been made is in the Himalayas. In his curious book *The Himalayas, the Abode of Light* the Russian explorer, geomant and painter Nicholas Roerich asserted that the Himalayan foothills contain entrances to vast subterranean galleries leading deep beneath Kanchenjunga, the world's third highest mountain. The name Kanchenjunga means 'The Five Sacred Treasures of the Great Snow', an allusion, it is said, to the

ancient Atlantean treasures of Agharthi buried deep within its rock. Esoteric Tibetan traditions affirm that the 'treasure' hidden within has been guarded for millennia, and Roerich claims to have seen a closed stone door sealing up the treasure cave, but that the time had not yet come for its opening. Being one of the holy mountains connected to the earth's energy-grid, the 'treasure' seems to be the key to the grid, like the Holy Grail of Wolfram von Eschenbach. Roerich asserted that Kanchenjunga was not the only storehouse of ancient wisdom, for at an altitude of 19,500 feet, on the Karakoram Pass, Roerich's groom had told him that ancient treasures were buried beneath that snowy ridge. The entrance, he went on, was guarded by a mighty fire which outsiders could not penetrate – another instance of Vril harnessed in the service of occult masters?

Several centuries before Roerich, Jesuit missionaries had penetrated there. Father Stephen Cacella, an early European explorer, recorded the existence of a mysterious country called Xembala – the Schambhallah of Nicholas Roerich. The legend of Schambhallah is found right through Asia and Europe. In Russia the land was known as Belovadeyo, in India Schambhallah and in China the home of Hunguru, the goddess of mercy. Several authors have identified it with the eastern Hyperborea of the ancient Greeks, and an overland expedition to find it is supposed to have been mounted in about 600 BC. Much later on, Christian Rosenkreuz is supposed to have gone to a place in or near Schambhallah called Dankar, where he received secret knowledge to transmit back to his initiates.

Schambhallah is intimately connected with the holy mountains of the Aryans, those mystic peaks of earth energy sought out by Himmler's geomants. Mountains such as Elbruz in the Caucasus, Bolluka in the Altai and Pamir are, according to tradition, links in a sacred chain connected to Schambhallah whence the Aryans and their gods came. According to this esoteric occult history, the Aryans had a great civilization in the place which is now the Gobi desert. As the result of a vast cataclysm, perhaps a nuclear explosion, the Gobi was made infertile and that civilization was eradicated. The survivors migrated away from the unihabitable wastes. One group emigrated towards Europe, whilst the other moved towards the

Caucasus. The European colony was led by two wise initiates, later deified as the Nordic gods Odin and Thor. The leaders of the civilization, the World Wise Masters, descended into super-bunker system burrowed beneath the Himalayas. There they divided into two factions, one following the right-hand path and the other the left-hand path of magic. One was centred at Schambhallah, the other at Agharthi.

These mysterious domains, sometimes seen as benevolent, at other times harmful to mankind, are believed to be associated with an impending geological catastrophe. This forthcoming cataclysm, on the scale of the destruction of Atlantis or the Flood of Noah, will, according to occult tradition, herald the Earth's new cycle. Accompanying this upheaval, the New Man or Sixth Root Race will appear. According to the shadowy adept Mahatma Koot Humi (1881) the guardians of Schambhallah under the King of the World will emerge from their subterranean kingdom to invite the elect of mankind to co-operate and help them to "enlighten superstitious men". Himmler saw his SS as the "elect of mankind", forerunners of the New Superman. It was natural for such a man, steeped in the traditions of German mysticism, to seek out this magical being to accelerate the arrival of the New Age, assisting his 'elect' in their new task. Himmler's minions, fed on stories from Blavatsky, Ossendovsky, Roerich and Haushofer, sought unceasingly to discover the 'halls of wisdom' housing the World Wise Men of whom, they were convinced, they were the servants. Several expeditions were dispatched to Tibet with the express intention of contacting these masters for assistance in the Nazi war of world domination. Perhaps the Ahnenerbe researchers succeeded in bringing back some age-old document, only to perish with it in the holocaust which terminated the 'Thousand-year Reich'.

Another candidate for Atlantean remains were die Canary Islands in the Adantic, and Nazi interest in the Aryans of Atlantis naturally turned to the study of their inhabitants. When the Canary Islands were discovered by Spanish sailors in the fourteenth century, the natives were astonished to find that there were other people alive on earth. They thought that all humanity bar themselves had perished in a world cataclysm. The Canary Islands, they asserted, were the mountain peaks of

a large land inundated by a catastrophic change in sea level. Various Canary customs, such as mummification of the dead, sun worship, an elective monarchy and even the colours of their buildings – red, white and black – were held by Atlantologists to be evidence that the islands were the last remains of the lost continent.

The Nazis, whose flag was also red, white and black, saw in the Canary Islanders the remnants of the Atlantean or Fourth Root Race. German scholars, most notably Eugen Fischer and Otto Huth, saw in the blond natives the long-lost blood-brothers of the Teutonic *Herrenvolk.* Huth studied their weapons and tools and found comparable artifacts from excavations of ancient German sites. The tools used by the Germans 4000-7000 years ago, asserted Huth, were the same design as those used on the Canaries before 1500 AD. Such evidence was just what Nazi Atlantologists wanted to hear.

Whatever the facts about ancient Atlantis may be, there is certainly evidence for submerged cities of a later date. In about 1200 BC, geological changes caused a lowering of sea level around the coasts of Europe. But in about 530 BC, a rapid rise in sea level partially inundated the coasts of the Baltic, the Netherlands, Brittany, Cornwall, Wales and Ireland. Legends of former coastal towns and seaports abound in these countries. The lost cities of Ker Ys in Brittany; Caer Arianrhod and Llys Helig in Wales; and Vineta, a sort of Scandinavian Sodom may have gone under at this time. Whatever the source of the varied legends of lost towns and lands, there must have been some origin in fact for the tales. Any important lost city would have been a seaport, like the cities of Atlantis, Vineta and Ys. The most important would have been the City of Lions, capital of Lyonesse, the land lying west of Cornwall. Like Alexandria in Egypt, birthplace of Rudolf Hess, such a port could have been a magnet for learning and the interchange of ideas, giving rise to the Thule legend.

Until World War II made Britain the arch-enemy of the Nazis, German geomants had shown a great interest in British antiquities as the remains of Atlantean culture. Even during the war, Kurt Gerlach showed how the ley lines of Europe continued to important sites like York, and much German research, especially that of Josef Heinsch, was performed on

Stonehenge. Writers like Diodorus Siculus had mentioned the great Hyperborean solar temple, which was obviously Stonehenge, and it was clear that in Britain the great civilization of Thule had once flourished. Britain, too, was the site of the Arthurian cycle with its chivalry and quest for the Holy Grail. In Britain the Nazis found the apotheosis of their legendary roots – the Lost Land of Lyonesse/Thule, the origin of chivalry, the ancient skills and wisdom of megalithic astronomy, the earth magic of Merlin, even the origin of German masonic occultism in the Scottish lodges. The ultimate irony was that the magic island once called Albion was to play a key role in the destruction of everything that Naziism stood for.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Architects of Evolution

Perhaps the most famous book ever written about Atlantis, after Plato's work, is Ignatius Donnelly's *Atlantis: The Antediluvian World.* In this monumental work, Donnelly, who lived from 1831 to 1901, expounded the evidence for a lost continent in the Atlantic Ocean, drawing upon evidence from geology, folklore and anthropology. Illustrated with many cogent examples, *Atlantis* became a best-seller overnight and remains a model of its *genre* today. Atlantis, claimed Donnelly, was the homeland of the Aryan race, and in this statement, we have the first glimmerings of ideas that were to burgeon horribly in the Third Reich.

"If the tradition of *Genesis* be true," wrote Donnelly, "the descendents of the Japheth who escaped out of the flood with Noah are the Ionians, the inhabitants of the Morea … These are all now recognized as Aryans …" Such ideas were first publicized in 1882. Forty years later, Alfred Rosenberg, the Nazi historian and racial theorist, was to 'make good' Donnelly's concepts, for like the Nazis, Donnelly mixed politics with his theories of Atlantis. Indeed, no less a personality than William Ewart Gladstone, four times Liberal Prime Minister of Great Britain, praised the works of Donnelly, indicating that they reflected many of his own ideas and convictions.

Donnelly's politics were 'populist'. Starting off as a staunch supporter of Abraham Lincoln, Donnelly became a leading figure in the Farmers' Alliance, a midwest party which he soon transformed into the nationwide Populist Party. Like the Nazis, he attempted to integrate the spiritual insights of antiquity with modern political realities. Donnelly claimed that in Atlantis had existed a master race whose legacy was still felt

in modern times. This race, whose achievements were not bettered for six thousand years, was characterized by a peculiar skull-shape with a receding forehead. Later civilizations like the Mayans, the Chinook and even the ancient Greeks, attempted to mimic this shape by artificially deforming the skulls of their children. Skull-shape to Donnelly was an indicator of "an early civilized and dominant people" – the Aryans.

Measuring skulls to determine race had become a major craze during the nineteenth century. The natural history museums of Europe at that time became crammed with human skulls looted from the graves of antiquity and the colonies. The Royal College of Surgeons' Museum in Oxford collected a huge number of human skulls together, whilst learned professors from Bremen to London expounded on the differences between Aryan, Jewish and Negro crania. Dr Gildemeister of Bremen in 1878 published meticulous measurements of 103 human skulls dug up from the medieval graveyards of Frisia, whilst in 1885 a monumental tome titled *The Races of Britain* emerged from the pen of John Beddoe. In it he detailed the minute racial differences then discernable in the populations of different parts of the British Isles.

By 1900, the Madras Museum in India had a massive measurement programme under way. Living and dead Indians, including native Jews, were subjected to measurements of almost every conceivable part of their bodies, and skull measurements of 'criminal' and 'normal' schoolboys were compared for significant differences. The work of the Madras Museum was entrusted to the British Chief of Railway Police, F. Fawcett. Forty years later, another chief of police was to undertake a similar project on specially-killed 'specimens'.

During the nineteenth century, scientific knowledge had advanced by leaps and bounds. Freed from laws which prevented the dissection of human cadavers, anatomists began to apply their rules of classification derived from the animal kingdom to human beings. The colonial empires of European states provided ample 'material' for anatomists to work on racial differences, and from their studies arose various political conclusions. Married with Charles Darwin's law of the survival of the fittest, these ideas were the seminal concepts behind Nazi racial doctrine.

One influential writer of this sort was a British anatomist, Dr Robert Knox. In his books *The Fragment, or Sketches of the Races of Man* and *The History of the Celtic Race,* Knox asserted that in history, race is everything; homogeneity of the race is the only basis of a well-founded nationality. A commentator on Knox's ideas, and much else, was David Morgan Thomas, a barrister-at-law, who, in his *Day Book of Wonders,* published at the beginning of this century, wrote: "It is race, that puts the teeming millions of India, under the dominion of little England … in any great quarrel, the pith and marrow of the question will always be a racial one, and that empires composed of many diverse ethnological elements must, in the course of time, go apart, or succumb little by little to disintegration." Thomas's work, generally about the scientific view of strange phenomena and the overall nature of things, is not overtly racist or even chauvinist in tone, yet it has strong elements later incorporated into racist doctrines. It was not exceptional; just the common view of his era.

The archaeologists and ethnologists of nineteenth century England ran riot with incredible racial theories. A popular belief was that the British were descended from the Lost Tribes of Israel. Hundreds of books and tracts were issued on this subject, basing the claim upon the regal traditions of the British monarchy, traditional weights and measures and common law. The noted pyramidologist and astronomer Piazzi Smyth attacked the Metric System from a British Israelite viewpoint, and his publisher, the tractarian Edward Hine, advocated the extermination of the Irish as a correct fulfilment of Biblical prophecy.

In opposition to British Israelitism, many anthropologists championed the origin of the Aryan race as the most important goal. The actual nature of the Aryan race is clouded in obscurity; some believe it to be merely determined by language, others skin colour, whilst others believe it is totally invalid as a concept. Orthodox ethnologists and linguists held that as a people the Aryans originated in India, having migrated into Europe in the dimmest recesses of prehistory. Isaac Taylor, on the contrary, claimed just the opposite. In *The Origin of the Aryans,* he asserted that "To derive the Aryans of Europe from those of Asia would be as reasonable as to bring

the Germans from England … the geographical centre of human history has now been shifted from the east to the west." Such claims, tied in with the mythology of lost Atlantis, were the groundbase from which Hörbiger and Rosenberg were to derive their 'racial histories'. The Germans naturally believed that they were the epitome of the Aryan race, but Robert Knox, being fanatically pro-Celtic, called the Anglo-Saxons "the mud of races". Like every doctrinaire, the Nazis picked and chose what suited their policies.

Studies of the Aryan race were perfectly respectable until the culmination of the Nazi period in the horrors of Auschwitz and Treblinka. Every scientific book written on race before World War II gave some explanation of 'Aryan' racial characteristics, and a comparison of that race with others. Believers in Aryan racial supremacy were given a fillip when scholars pointed out an ancient Indian custom, the forerunner of the caste system. A. C. Haddon, reader in ethnology at Cambridge University before World War II, wrote: "We have an interesting example of the employment of … race discrimination in the *Vedas,* which were composed by poets of the Aryan invaders of northern India about 1500 BC. The word *Varna,* which is now employed to signify caste, is used in the dual number, 'two colours', being the white of the Aryans and the black of the Dasyus, that is the Dravidian aborigines … "

The Aryans who invaded India 4000 years ago set up a racial aristocracy. Unlike the Norman racial aristocracy after the 1066 conquest, the Aryan one in India was visibly based upon skin colour. Although eventual intermarriage and intermingling of the races occurred, a caste system was permanently established in India. Although this archaically unfair method of dividing society was never institutionalized in Europe, if some of the political theorists in pre-Nazi times had had their way, it would have been. In 1853-55, Arthur de Gobineau had produced his epoch-making *Essai sur l'inégalité des races humaines (Essay on the Inequality of the Human Races).* In this influential treatise, the aristrocratic French diplomat, ethnologist, poet and sculptor expounded the doctrine which had profound effects in the future: that some races were inherently superior to others. In 1859, Charles Darwin published *The Origin of Species* in which he gave proof of the doctrine of the

'survival of the fittest' – a theory which gave the accolade of science to the theories of Gobineau. To Gobineau, "History … shows us that all civilization flows from the white race, that none can exist without the co-operation of this race," and that to the *ordinary* white race, the Aryan race is what the white man is to the black. In his system, eagerly seized upon by pan-German fanatics, "the Aryan German is a powerful creature … Everything that this man thinks, everything that he says, everything that he does accordingly acquires a major importance."

In 1873, Gobineau became ambassador of France to Sweden at Stockholm. In September that year, he wrote to his sister: "It is the difficulty in resuming the cult of Odin that holds up everything (in Sweden). What would you say if you learn that I had raised myself to the dignity of High Priest of Odin, Thor and Frey?" Gobineau was the first Nordic racist to connect with the old gods. Richard Wagner's mystical reinterpretation of Norse legend was also a major influence on Hitler's thought. To the last, Hitler attended performances of Wagner's music dramas, especially the heroic operas of the Ring Cycle. "When I hear Wagner," he said, "I feel as if these are the sounds of the prehistoric world." Wagner, originally a supporter of the Anarchist Bakunin, later in life became the epitome of the German mystical nationalist. Influenced by Gobineau, he turned against the Christian faith, and in an essay entitled *Heldentum and Christentum (Heroism and Christianity),* Wagner asserted that it was now necessary to seek out men who were struggling against the debasement of their stock and morals in order to establish once again themselves as godlike heroes. These heroes were to free themselves from the lies and false principles of existing culture and civilization, and recapture the spirit of self-sacrifice that had been destroyed in Christianity by the Church. These men were to become transformed in spirit and were to revive the reformed Germanized Christianity of Parsifal, guardian of the Holy Grail. Such were the professed aims of Hitlerism. They led to the gas chambers.

Occult Race History

The writings of the Theosophists contain many of the germs

of Nazi racial doctrine. Both the Theosophists and the Nazis had connexions with Tibetan schools of esoteric thought, so it is not surprising that we find similar themes in both systems. Atlantis is the common starting-point. In February 1896, W.Scott-Elliot published a long article entitled *Atlantis: A geographical, historical and ethnological sketch.* It was issued by the London Lodge of the Theosophical Society and reprinted as a pamphlet with the variant title *The Story of Atlantis.* Illustrated with four sumptuous coloured fold-out maps of the world as seen at various stages of its traditional history, the article went into great detail on the history, religion, geography and races of the lost land. Now whether or not we accept or dismiss the Theosophists' Atlantean details as fanciful, their ideas on ethnology and the 'coming race' certainly had a massive influence leading eventually to Auschwitz and Treblinka.

Scott-Elliot explaned the Blavataskyan doctrine that Atlantis was the homeland of the Fourth Root Race, descended from the third one on Lemuria, another lost continent even more remote in time. According to this scheme, the various Root Races were divided into separate sub-races. The Atlantean or Fourth Root Race was sub-divided into seven sub-races: the Rmoahal; the Tlavatli; the Toltec; the First Turanian; the original Semite; the Akkadian and the Mongolian races. The oldest of these was the Rmoahal, which came into existence between four and five million years ago on a spur of Lemuria. The Rmoahals were a mahogany race of giant stature, but eventually they shrank from twelve feet in height to a more human scale.

Aeons passed, ice ages came and went every 30,000 years, and the first sub-race evolved into the second, or Tlavatli, race, which inhabited an island off the west coast of Adantis. From it evolved the Toltec race, "a magnificent development", which ruled the whole of Atlantis for thousands of years in great material power and glory. A tall race, about eight feet in height, the Toltecs had a red-brown skin. Later they degenerated, and eventually, hundreds of thousands of years later in Mexico, they were conquered by the Aztecs.

The fourth sub-race, the Turanians, a 'yellow' rather than a 'red' race like its predecessors, migrated to the countries east of

Atlantis, having originated in the part of Atlantis now known as Scotland and Ireland. These somewhat inferior people were followed in turn by the Semites, "a turbulent and discontented race", who were always at war with their neighbours. After them, the Akkadian, or sixth sub-race, made its appearance, overthrew the now-degenerate rulers of Atlantis and ruled the country wisely for several centuries. Finally, the Mongolian race evolved on the plains of Tartary, the only component of the Fourth Root Race to have its origins outside the Atlantean motherland.

Under the direction of Manu, a special section of the Semitic race was segregated from the rest, and sent into a great migration. The separated part evolved into the Fifth Root Race, the Aryans, whilst the remainder became the Jews, "an abnormal and unnatural link between the Fourth and Fifth Root Races", as Madame Blavatsky so unfortunately put it.

The popularity of Theosophical ideas at the beginning of this century meant that they were rapidly assimilated into occult thought. Anthropologists studying cultures and languages had carried out meticulous studies into the nature of the Aryan race in both India and Europe, and it only required someone to synthesize the ideas of Gobineau, Darwin, Blavatsky and the rest into a coherent ethos before Naziism reared its ugly head. Theosophists, steeped in the history of past races, constantly affirmed that the Sixth Root Race was on its way, inevitable though not with us yet. This creation of a 'superman', heralded by thinkers like Friedrich Nietzsche and hinted at by Charles Darwin, was the ultimate aim of Nazi racism. According to Theosophical doctrine, this race would evolve from the most advanced sub-race of the Aryans. That race was stated to be the Teutonic, or German race, the 'seventh sub-race' which had evolved in the Caucasus.

But before this new race could appear, said the occultists, the configuration of the Earth's geography had to undergo fresh changes. This catastrophist connexion with evolution was taken up by Nazi supporters of Hörbiger, who claimed that the Moon was getting nearer to the Earth with a consequent gravitational change that would accelerate evolutionary trends. A. P. Sinnett, a London Theosophist, had written: "the Manu of the future root race will no doubt see his way when the time

comes to an appropriate modification of ancient methods." The man who saw himself as that 'Manu' was Adolf Hitler.

During its period of ascendancy, Fascism often claimed that it was 'short-cutting the inevitable', accelerating existing trends in social evolution. The Artamanen, Himmler's racist self-sufficiency group, were in the forefront of this school of thought. When Himmler gained ascendancy in the Third Reich, he began to implement his ideas of selective breeding of humans to accelerate the 'inevitable' advent of the Sixth Root Race. His studies into extrasensory perception and the control of Vril were with the intention that the new superman would have such occult powers. The Coming Race was to be characterized by such gifts, and research would short-circuit the achievement of them. "Magnetic healing" was to be a fundamental science among the new race, claimed Scott-Elliot, and "the personal power, which Bulwer Lytton calls *Vril,* and the operation of which he has fairly accurately described in his *Coming Race"* was especially important. Himmler endeavoured to select those whom he believed had such powers, albeit latently, the most suitable people to form the basis of the Sixth Root Race. He also exterminated those who did not fit the New Order.

Hitler was a firm believer in this coming race. "Creation is not yet completed," he said. "Man has reached a definite stage of metamorphosis. The ancient human species is already in a state of decline, just managing to survive. Humanity accomplishes a step up every seven hundred years, and the ultimate aim is the coming of the Sons of God. All creative forces will be concentrated in a new species … It will be infinitely superior to modern man. Do you understand now the profound meaning of our National Socialist Movement? Whoever sees in National Socialism nothing more than a political movement doesn't know much about it."

Hitler believed that the seven hundred years was up, and that the next step forward was imminent. The seven hundred year period, based on ancient German treasure and Grail lore, was to end in 1944, when everything would irrevocably alter. It did alter in 1944, but not in the way Hitler would have wished. His attempt at applied eugenics, the so-called science of human stock improvement, was to end in mass murder and total

failure. Eugenics had been invented by an English biologist, Francis Galton, during the previous century. By choosing the finest and fittest 'specimens' of humanity, he had argued, physical and mental defects could be eradicated. *The Descent of Man* by Charles Darwin next suggested a eugenic organization of society. In 1871 Darwin wrote that the care of the weak and sick members of society will lead inevitably to a serious degeneration of die human race. Houston Stewart Chamberlain, Hitler's admirer, urged the stock-breeding of people as a way to improve human gifts. By eugenics, he claimed, the 'moral qualities' of German man would be honed to a fine pitch of perfection. "The races of mankind are markedly different in the nature and also die extent of their gifts," he wrote, "and the Germanic races belong to the most highly gifted group, the group usually termed Aryan". He had learnt this truths he added, by observing the breeding of horses and dogs.

When Hider acceded to power, he began a programme of eugenics. Just as the philosopher Nietzsche had proposed that only people with 'proper family histories' should be permitted to marry, and that there should be a "forbidding of life to decadents … the latter must at all costs be eliminated", Hitler engaged on a programme of sterilizations and 'euthanasia' of those whom he felt 'decadents'. People with hereditary diseases, mental illness, homosexuals-and all those not of the German race were included in the programme of final elimination. The justification came from Nietzsche: " … society is not entitled to exist for its own sake, but only as a substructure and scaffolding, by means of which a select race of beings may elevate themselves to their higher duties, and, in general, a higher existence." Hitler applied this pernicious doctrine with a vengeance.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

Genocide – An Act of Black Magic

Racism of a political-historical kind was commonplace in Germany of the twenties. Since the previous century a never-ending stream of books on 'race studies' or 'Jewry' had emerged from the many publishing houses which specialized in such literature. Throughout the Second Reich various books had emerged to elaborate on the theories of Gobineau. Among the most influential were *Die Juden (The Jews)* by R. Andreé (1911), J. Zollschau's *Das Rassen Problem (The Race Problem),* published at Leipzig in 1881, and *Rassenkunde (Racial Studies)* by G.Kraitschek (1893). By the twenties, racial books were literally pouring from the presses. Motor tycoon Henry Ford's anti-semitic tract *The International Jew* appeared in German translation in 1922, and the works of other American racists were in great demand. These included *The Passing of the Great Race, Or the Racial Basis of European History,* by Madison Grant, and Lothrop Stoddard's books *The Rising Tide of Color against White World Supremacy* (1919) and *The Revolt Against Civilization,* published in 1924.

Books on race were not, however, restricted to political authors with an axe to grind. Many eminent German academics wrote learned treatises on race. These included such illuminati as Fritz Lenz, Professor of 'Racial Hygiene' at the University of Munich, Walter Scheidt, an anthropologist from the University of Hamburg, and Werner Siemens, but the most influential of all was Hans Günther. In 1926, Hans F.A. Günther's book *Rassenkunde des Deutschen Volkes (Racial Studies of the German People)* was published. Like the typical anthropological books of the period 1871-1933 it contained details of skull measurements taken from all over the world,

descriptions of the instruments needed to measure skulls, and an analysis of skulls in relation to the German race. It also compared the racial type of the modern German with ancient representations of heroes and philosophers from Greece and Rome in antiquity. In every way, the book was typical of textbooks on race published at the time – except for one significant difference. At the back was an appendix on the Jewish race, incorporating a map showing the number of Jews per thousand of the population in various parts of Central Europe, a discussion on the origin of the Jews and even diagrams showing the alleged difference between the 'Jewish nose' and others. After the Nazis' seizure of power, Günther's 'discoveries' were to become invaluable to Himmler's SS.

Today, the science of physiognomy is considered irrelevant, and placed by most people at the outer limits of crankdom. But during the last century, it was taken seriously, especially by those seeking indications of 'criminal types'. Günther's 'Jewish nose' studies come into this bizarre realm, for one of the fathers of physiognomy, John Casper Lavater, put great emphasis on the nose in his treatise *Essays on Physiognomy.* Lavater even drew up laws governing the perfect nose, which he believed to be 'the abutment of the brain'. He produced lists of the 'most noble men of history' based upon their nasal forms to 'prove' his contention. Whilst we may now consider his work to be at best a byway in anatomy, and at worst a ludicrous obsession, it is a fact that during the 1920s and 30s books appeared in Germany discussing in all seriousness the 'degenerate' nature of the 'Jewish nose'. Even otherwise learned and sober treatises on race published at the time deviated into 'learned' discourses on this supposed characteristic.

If the ethnological interest in the Jewish people had been merely scientific, then all would have been well. But the reason for this inordinate interest in an insignificant ethnic minority was not scientific. It was part of the long and hideous story of the persecution of the Jews, unconscious survivals of which can be seen in the Britain of today. Most people do not recognize the Jewish caricature in Punch's wife, Judy (*Jüdin* is the German for Jewess), nor do they know that "Hip! Hip! Hurrah!" derives from HEP, the letters H.E.P. being the Latin abbreviation *Hierusylema Est Perdita* – Jerusalem Is Destroyed.

Medieval anti-semites would shout "Hep! Hep!" as they herded the Jews out of town or to the scaffold.

European Christendom of the middle ages had no love for the Jews. They were incessantly victimized, deported, imprisoned, confiscated and murdered at the whim of church and state. As early as 1020, the Jews were deported from England on the orders of King Canute. They returned with William the Conqueror only to be butchered at the coronation of Richard Coeur de Lion: 16,500 Jews were again banished from England by Edward I in 1290. In 1348, the Black Death was blamed on Jewish magicians, and throughout Europe they were massacred in their thousands. In 1492, the Jews were expelled from Spain and Portugal, and throughout the next four centuries they were persecuted in almost every country. In 1555 Pope Paul IV obliged all Jews in Italy to lock themselves into the Ghetto – the quarter of a town in which the Jews were forced to live – every night. They were also compelled to wear a yellow star of David.

Jewish persecutions continued through the so-called 'Age of Reason'. In 1852, anti-semitic riots flared at Stockholm, whilst in 1864 the Jews at Rome were persecuted. In 1866 the Jews of Bucharest were attacked, and in the 1880s, the whole Jewish population of the Russian Empire came under attack. There, the Czar decided to expel one third of the Jewish population, murder another third in *Pogroms* and keep one third. Anti-semitic publications flourished all over Europe, and in 1905 the Russian Secret Police published *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion,* the anti-semites' 'bible'. This notorious work purported to be the blueprint for a conspiracy by the Jews to cause world revolution – almost a carbon copy of the 'conspiracy' of the Bavarian Illuminati one hundred and twenty years before. An immediate best-seller among anti-semites, the *Protocols* were soon translated into all the European languages. Conspiracy enthusiasts now had a rationale for persecuting Jewry, and in Germany the seeds of the holocaust were sown.

Although various anti-semitic political groupings existed in many European countries, none of them advocated anything more than expelling the Jews from their lands. But in the empires of those European powers, a new appalling trend was

emerging, one which would soon be applied to the Jews of the Third Reich – genocide.

The total extermination of a whole race or nation to make way for another is not a new phenomenon. As early as AD 666 St Wilfrid had blessed a Christian Saxon expedition to the Isle of Wight to exterminate the entire Jutish population, which happened to be Pagan. In the nineteenth century, other island populations were to be totally extirpated; the Indians of Newfoundland and the Tasmanians. Writing in *The Day Book of Wonders,* David Morgan expressed the horror of the Tasmanian experience. The Tasmanians, he wrote, "have been utterly erased by the white man … I have before me as I write these lines, a mass of evidence which I have collected, examined and weighed, respecting the methods whereby, in many lands and islands, the extinction of races has been accomplished by the white man, … the crimes are too filthy and vile to publish; and the cruelties and enormities are a black and awful chapter."

The poor Tasmanians were systematically hunted down, murdered and deported by both British convicts and agents of the British government. A Christian priest, Augustus Robinson, gathered together the last few pitiful remnants of the Tasmanian people at a mission-cum-prison where they died of disease and abuse. The race became extinct when the last surviving woman, Trugonini, died in 1869; her body was knocked down to the highest bidder and dissected. Her skeleton, after careful measurements had been taken, was put on view like some animal specimen in a glass case in Hobart Museum. The graveyards of the Tasmanians were systematically dug up, and the skulls transported to the anthropological institutes of the civilized world. The largest collection was in the museum of the Royal College of Surgeons in England.

The genocide of the Tasmanian race was naturally a subject of discussion amongst learned Victorians, but by and large it was agreed that the hapless natives were in reality only sub-human, little more than apes. Their extermination was seen as the inevitable consequence of their inferiority. Such a view was expressed by none other than Charles Darwin, and also by the foundress of Theosophy, Madame Blavatsky.

Genocide was not restricted to Tasmania and Newfound-

land. In their African possessions, the European nations carried out genocide on a monstrous scale. By far the worst case occurred between 1890 and 1911 in the Belgian Congo (now Zaire). There, the colonists deliberately reduced the native population from 30,000,000 to 8,500,000 through starvation, massacres and abuse, and in South-West Africa (now Namibia), the natives fell under the 'protection' of the German Empire in 1884. In January 1904, the Herrero tribe, tired of being subjects of the Second Reich, revolted. Between then and 1906, Germany waged a war of deliberate genocide against the Herreros. General Graf von Schlieffen was put in charge of this one-sided war, and in a letter to Reich Chancellor von Bülow he wrote: "The race war which has broken out can be brought to a conclusion only by the destruction of one of the parties." The 'party' he meant was the Herrero tribe. Referred to as 'vermin' and 'animals', the tradespeople were herded into concentration camps, where forty-five per cent of the inmates perished. Tribal chiefs and witch doctors were singled out to be shot. In two years the tribe was reduced from 80,000 to 16,000.

The disruption caused by World War I brought genocide back to Europe. Ethnic minorities were persecuted once again. Over a million Armenians were killed in Turkey, and the Cossacks in the Ukraine wiped out 80,000 Jews. In Latvia, the Baltic *Freikorps* continued their programme of pogroms after the war officially ended. But Hitler's attack upon the Jews, the most vehement and efficient in its deadliness, was more than just a continuation of this chronicle of horrors, for Hitler sought to totally extirpate the Jewish race from this planet.

Previous anti-semites, even in Germany, had sought only to remove Jews from their own territories. Hitler's faith in the coming race led him to believe that the new *Herrenvolk* could not evolve whilst a single Jew still lived. His mystical hatred of all nomadic peoples, especially the Gypsies and the Jews, as opposed to peoples 'rooted in blood and soil' led to the most appalling crimes. As representatives of the established world against the insubstantial, order against disorder, government against anarchy, the hyper-authoritarian Nazis sought to extirpate all forms of 'deviance' from their new world order. The Jews had lived for centuries, even flourished, in this nomadic

existence, and to the Nazis this was a heretical denial of their centralist authority.

In January 1940, the first stage of the plan for the elimination of Jewry was put into action. It was decided that all Jews in the 'Greater Reich' were to be deported to Poland. The 'Nisko Project' as it was called, brutally uprooted whole Jewish communities and shipped them to the Polish city of Lublin. The city normally supported 72,000 Gentiles and 40,000 Jews, but over a quarter of a million Jews were crammed in, where they died of disease and starvation. Those fortunate enough to escape to the Soviet-occupied part of Poland were shot as 'deserters' by the Red Army.

On January 20, 1941, fifteen high-ranking Nazi officials met at the Berlin suburb of Wannsee. There, Reinhard Heydrich, Himmler's deputy, outlined the 'final solution of the Jewish Question' – genocide. The Race and Resettlement Office gleefully reported that Estonia was already 'free of Jews' and that new methods now being devised would 'rid Europe' of them. Robert Ley, Reich Minister of Labour, had already stated that "Poland would in fifty years be a flourishing German country, with not a Pole or a Jew in it." Himmler, Heydrich and Eichmann had devised a scheme whereby a total of 11 million Jews would be exterminated, followed by 30 million Slavs. The Jews to be murdered included those living in countries yet to be conquered – Britain, Ireland, Spain, Sweden, Portugal and Switzerland. The systematic and total extermination of Jewry, down to the smallest child, was to be carried out with industrial precision. The Gypsies, too, would be wiped out, but that was a minor problem in comparison with the 'Jewish Question'. Colonel Victor Brack, Hitler's advisor on euthanasia, had collaborated with Dr Walter Kallmeyer and Dr Erhard Wetzel, who had recommended gas to be the most efficient and cost-effective method of wiping out the Jews.

The project was put out to tender, and German industry keenly clamoured for the rewarding contracts. Finally, Topf and Company of Erfurt won the tender for the special high-capacity crematoria which could burn 2,000 bodies every twelve hours. They won the contract because they had devised an ingenious way of saving fuel – their crematoria used

human body fat as part of the fuel. German Armaments Inc. won the coveted gas chamber contract – 'mortuary casks' they were called in the tender; whilst the gas, *Zyklon-B*, a cyanide derivative, was provided by the German Vermin-Combating Corporation.

In this way, the Nazi leadership sought to 'clear the ground' for the creation of the Sixth Root Race, regardless of the human misery. Transportation of the Jews from western Europe was deemed necessary because the vast majority of French, Dutch, Belgian, Italian, Danish and Norwegian people would not stand for mass executions of their countrymen on their soil. Only the Croatian Fascists obliged the Nazis by murdering 20,000 of their Jewish compatriots. Little did they suspect that had Himmler had his way the Croatian Slavs would soon have followed the Jews into the gas chambers.

By November 1941, the grisly programme was underway. In that month, Dr Goebbels made a broadcast in which he said: "Jewry is now suffering a fate which, though hard, is no more than deserved. No compassion and certainly no sorrow is called for." In a conversation with Count Galeazzo Ciano, the Italian Foreign Minister the same month, Hermann Göring remarked: "This year, between twenty and thirty million persons will die in Russia of hunger. Perhaps it is well that it should be so, for certain nations must be decimated."

In Warsaw, the Polish Jews had been forced into an area designated the Ghetto, and by 1942 systematic deportations from there to Auschwitz began. In January 1943, 6,500 Jews were rounded up. This was the sign for the newly-formed Jewish Resistance, led by Mordechai Anielewicz, to act. A German police captain in the Ghetto was shot. Enraged that 'sub humans' should resist the destiny of the master race, Himmler gave Orders that the entire Ghetto should be cleared of Jews and every building razed to the ground.

At three o'clock on the morning of April 19, 1943, two SS battalions, armed with flame throwers and field guns and led by a tank, entered the Ghetto. The date was significant. Brigadeführer Stroop, the cornmarider, hoped to present the extermination of the Ghetto's Jews to Hitler as a birthday present the next day. But he had not reckoned with the Resistance. Almost as soon as the tank entered the Ghetto, it was knocked out by a

Molotov Cocktail. Although the Jewish resistance numbered only about 1,500 men, armed with two or three machine guns and a few hundred hand guns, their ferocity astounded the battle-hardened SS.

Overwhelming odds were on the side of the Nazis, however. On May 8, 1943, Anielewicz was killed, and on May 15, the last heroic resistance petered out. Of the survivors, 7,000 Jews were shot immediately, 7,000 were despatched to the Treblinka death camp, whilst a further 15,000 were sent to the death camp at Majdanek. The slave-labour Organization Todt was moved into the Ghetto, and demolition began. It was not enough for the Nazis to exterminate a people; even their buildings were to be eradicated. By explosives and manual labour, 190 hectares of Warsaw were razed flat. There was so much rubble that 17 kilometres of narrow-gauge tramway was laid down to carry it away. It is astonishing to contemplate the amount of useless work carried out demolishing Warsaw at a time when Germany was beginning to lose the war.

Stroop saw the whole appalling episode as an heroic crusade. He congratulated himself with a handsomely-bound photographic record of the atrocity which he proudly presented to Hitler. "The dirty arrogant SS swine", General Jodl was to say at the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials three years later, "imagine writing a boasting 75-page report on a little murder expedition, when a major campaign fought by soldiers against a well-equipped army takes only a few pages." Jodl, of the ordinary German army, could not understand that the destruction of the Warsaw Ghetto was more than just a 'murder expedition' in the eyes of the SS. To them, it was a significant action in the quest to create the New Order, prerequisite for the appearance of the Sixth Root Race. Himmler had boasted that he would wipe out eleven million Jews, and he was in deadly earnest. To him it was a crusade which took precedence over everything – even the war effort. This was most evident towards the end of the war, when Himmler commandeered trains for the transport of Jews and Gypsies to Auschwitz, Treblinka or any of the other nineteen death camps operated by the SS. Running on a battered and disrupted railway system, every train was a vital carrier of military supplies, yet Himmler gave his genocide programme priority even over the

survival of Germany itself. Genocide was the magical act whereby the history of the world would forever be transformed, even if Germany did not survive. The elimination of the Jews, and with them their culture and religion, would leave a vacuum for the ascendance of the demonic powers controlled by or controlling the Third Reich. Himmler felt himself a participant in a psychic armageddon. Fortunately he was on the losing side.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

State Magic

If the foregoing chapter seems a little startling in its analysis of the reasons for the genocide of the Jews, we are now in a position to see the major influence occult thought had upon the leaders of the Third Reich. All of the Nazi leaders, with the exception of Paul Joseph Goebbels, were heavily involved with occult practices of one sort or another. Hitler's occult provenance has already been detailed: his mesmeric power over a nation and his absolute faith in his own destiny attest to a belief that the accomplishment of a 'divine mission' had been placed in his hands. His messianic faith in Atlantis, the coming race and even life on other planets ought to have made him a friend of German occultists, but when he took power in 1933, quite the opposite occurred. As an accomplished occultist himself, Hitler had an inordinate fear of occult secret societies. Terrified that a conspiracy might unseat him, he charged Himmler with the investigation and suppression of any organization which might pose some threat.

Himmler's spies and agents infiltrated every sort of occult group and prepared lengthy dossiers for the Gestapo. Among the groups investigated were the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Jesuits, Astrological societies, the Freemasons and the Rosicrucians. The latter were the object of a particularly detailed scrutiny, for they claimed to possess certain universal secrets which Himmler felt could be put to better use by the SS. Their connexion with the Freemasons, for only Masons were admitted to the German section of the Rosicrucian Fraternity, was held to be a threat to state security. Their interest in the Jewish Qabalah was held to be a threat to Nazi magic itself.

In the spring of 1934, there was a sudden clamp-down on

astrology. Magazines and newspapers received a Nazi directive not to accept astrological advertizing, and Berlin's police chief announced a ban on all fortune telling. Germany's leading clairvoyant, Hanussen, paradoxically a Jewish financial supporter of the Nazis, was kidnapped by Brownshirts and murdered. His psychic magazine *Die Hanussen Zeitung* had successfully predicted Hitler's victory in the April 1933 election and had carried the banner headline *Sieg!* (Victory!), but later Hanussen fell from favour when his clairvoyance predicted the infamous Reichstag Fire which enabled Hitler to ruthlessly suppress all political opposition. A general confiscation and destruction of occult books took place, and organizations like the Theosophists and the Freemasons found their activities severely restricted.

Pagan groups, too, were actively persecuted. Magical practice had become the sole prerogative of the inner cabal of the Nazi party. The state could no longer be magically assailed from within.

In order to magically consolidate his position as future Emperor of Europe, Hitler became an inveterate collector of regalia. At first, the regalia he presented himself were only replicas, but after the war began in earnest, he appropriated the authentic articles. In 1934, he obtained copies of the crown, orb and sceptre that had been the imperial insignia of the Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne. Although he had made this odd gesture on behalf of the German people – "I accept these into my keeping on behalf of the glorious Fatherland" – it is an indication that he actually saw himself in the role of Kaiser of the Third Reich. As the deposed Kaiser Wilhelm II was still alive at the time, it would not have been politic for him to proclaim himself Kaiser, but, had he won the war, it is likely that Kaiser Adolf I would have been crowned at the World's Fair and victory celebrations planned for Berlin in 1950.

As his conquests proceeded, Hitler continued to accumulate the trappings of sacral kingship. Six months after the *Anschluss* of Germany with Austria, Mayor Liebel of Nuremberg presented Hitler with more replica regalia, this time of a more overtly occult nature. When Hider had re-entered his native land as its master in 1938, he had shown an inordinate interest in certain jewels among the Hapsburg regalia. These were the

pieces made for the fifteenth century German King Frederick III. Frederick had been a lapidarian as well as an astrologer and alchemist, and, like Hitler, and many Kaisers before and since, had cherished notions of the conquest of other nations. Although Frederick III had failed in his dreams of megalomaniac grandeur, the gold settings of his collection of mystic gems were inscribed with the letters AEIOU. When Hitler was told that this cipher meant *Austria Est Imperare Orbi Universe-* – It is for Austria to rule the whole world – he saw it as an omen for his dreams of the Greater Reich. So before the next Nuremberg Rally, the mayor presented Hitler with facsimile copies of these pieces.

When the war began, Hitler the occultist realized that he needed the real thing, so he personally took possession of all the regalia of the countries that the German Army overran. From Vienna they looted the coronation regalia of the Holy Roman Empire from the Imperial Treasure Room. This wealth included the jewelled crown of the Emperor Conrad, a magic shield, two swords and an orb. There was also the famed Spear of Destiny, about which Trevor Ravenscroft has written at length. Although the regalia had been kept at Vienna since 1804, the Nazis discovered a fifteenth century decree by the Emperor Sigismund that they should be kept at Nuremberg. This was enough justification for them to be removed to Germany. From Prague, the regalia of the ancient Bohemian kings disappeared into Germany, and from the bombed ruins of Warsaw Castle disappeared the Polish royal treasures.

In appropriating these regalia, Hitler continued the ancient magical tradition of conquerors taking away relics of national power as symbols of their victories, for possession of the emblems of rule is traditionally believed to ensure the continuance of that power. The Emperor Napoleon I took the emblems of sovereignty from his subject nations, and the practice was continued in the British Empire. The magic jewel of the Sikhs – the Koh-i-Noor diamond, whose name means *Mountain of Light* – was taken from India to grace the symbols of British monarchy.

Hitler was well schooled in the magical theory behind regalia: he knew that a deeper magic than mere national symbolism lies behind jewels and diadems. For a man who

constantly attacked the principle of royalty, a collection of the symbols of sovereignty can have no other interpretation. Significantly, his attacks were only on *hereditary* monarchy, which he called "a classic example of the laws of selective breeding operating in reverse. Royal families become more degenerate with each generation until they eventually become insane." Hitler asserted that heroic, *Führerprinzip* monarchy, based upon die leadership of the fittest, was a fine thing. The ancient tradition of the divinity of kings also applied to their regalia, which were not merely symbols but actually instruments of a magical technology. By appropriating the regalia of subject nations, he believed that the magical powers of rulership inherent in the symbols would be transferred to him. Confiscation of the emblems of authority was to him more than symbolic; it had an actual, functional reason.

Like Hitler, Rudolf Hess had roots in occult societies. Fascinated by the lost land of Thule, astrology, Tibetan mysticism, space travel and homoeopathic medicine, Hess tried to live as closely as possible to his beliefs. When his child was born, he ordered every *Gauleiter* (District Leader) to send him bags of German soil from each *Gau.* The soil was spread under a specially-built cradle so that the baby could start its life symbolically upon German soil. When Hess unexpectedly defected to Scotland, this tale was brought out by the press as evidence of his mental instability, yet it was a classical geomantic act, based upon ancient European and Asiatic tradition. Soil from each district collected together at one place produces a magical microcosm of a whole country. One ancient example is the Tynwald Hill at Douglas, Isle of Man, which is composed of soil brought from the seventeen parishes of the island. As the administrative centre, it creates a psychic link with every part of the island. The custom is still observed at the coronation of the king of the central Asian land of Bhutan – another example of the Tibetan connexion – where soil from every district is placed beneath the royal throne before the rites commence.

Hess's interest in homoeopathic medicine and diagnosis by dowsing led to the foundation of a homoeopathic hospital in Leipzig. It has recently been claimed that the man imprisoned in Berlin's Spandau Prison is not the original Rudolf Hess.

Although he was seriously wounded in the Great War, when examined by Allied doctors he bore no scars or any signs of ever having received serious wounds. That is, if he had been treated by orthodox medicine. If Hess had been treated by one of the psychic surgeons he employed at Leipzig, then the disappearance of scars is not so inexplicable.

One of Hess's early *protegés* was Oberth, the father of rocketry. Oberth, who had been the recipient of Dietrich Eckart's 'Mecca Stone', was deeply interested in parapsychology. In 1960, fifteen years after the fall of the Third Reich, he urged honesty in UFO research and attacked the United States Air Force for failing to reveal all its findings on them. As late as the 1970s, Oberth was still pursuing the psychic studies of the Thuleans with a Nuremberg psychic and a Tibetan Lama, and on his 80th birthday in 1974 he expressed the conviction that the exploration of space had passed the purely physical phase and would soon culminate in parapsychological methods. It is a curious fact that both Oberth and his Soviet counterpart Tsiolkovsky were involved with the paranormal. Tsiolkovsky was a follower of the eighteenth century Austrian alchemist Boscovitch, among whose occult notes he discovered tracts on interplanetary flight and a unitary theory of the forces of the Universe. Here again we see a fusion of archaic occult wisdom with modern science.

Hess's obsession with divination led to his downfall. In 1941, Haushofer had a dream in which he saw Hess in Scotland. Hess did not interpret it, as some would have done, as a sign of the impending Nazi conquest of Britain. He saw it as an omen that he was destined to negotiate peace with Britain, so he obtained a Messerschmitt fighter plane and flew it single-handed through the British air defences to Scotland. Naturally, the British authorities were astonished and delighted to gain such an illustrious prisoner-of-war. Hitler, furious at such a precipitate and unconsidered action, immediately laid the blame at the door of astrology, and promptly initiated *Aktion Hess*, the round-up of prominent astrologers. Göring took the opportunity to finish off his own *bête noir*, the last remaining Masonic lodges, and astrologers and Freemasons suddenly found themselves in concentration camps.

Although Goring was cynical and vain, he was not immune

from Nazi occultism. In 1938, his wife Emmy began consulting a clairvoyant named Dr Augustus Heerman, who gave her advice on her sciatica, Hermann's diet and the course of the war. In January 1940 Emmy convinced both her husband and Adolf Hitler of Heerman's efficiency. A Luftwaffe courier had been despatched to military headquarters in Cologne with a copy of a top-secret memorandum that went into detail about the future conduct of the war by a simultaneous attack upon Holland and Belgium as part of the strategy to defeat France and Britain. The courier was supposed to take the plan, titled *Memorandum and Directive for the Conduct of War in the West,* to Cologne by train, but he disobeyed orders and went instead by air. The aircraft went off course in bad weather and crashed in Belgium.

On hearing of this disaster, Hitler immediately summoned Göring from his castle at Veldenstein. Catastrophe loomed as Hitler related to the Reichsmarshall that the Nazi master plan was now on Belgian soil. Had it falllen into Belgian hands, or had the courier destroyed it? Göring was furious. Hitler was threatening him, and perhaps all the well-prepared plans for the future *Blitzkrieg* would come to nought.

Emmy Göring came up with the solution – consult the oracle. Telephoning her clairvoyant mentor Heerman, she told him the problem and asked him to use his talents in the service of the Reich. After a short pause on the telephone, Heerman related that the man carrying the documents had landed in Belgium. Immediately after landing, he had asked a passing peasant for a light for his cigarette. Unsuccessfully he had attempted to set light to the memorandum, and had asked the man for another match. The peasant had no more. Meanwhile the Belgian police had arrived, had taken the survivors to the local police station and questioned them. The courier had screwed up the memorandum and thrust it into a stove, but a policeman had jumped up and recovered them from the flames, but in the meantime they had been partially burnt so as to leave legible only as much as might be covered by a normal-sized hand in the centre of the page.

This dubious message was relayed to Hitler, who immediately came to see the Görings. The original document was brought out, and one by one they laid their hands across the

pages to see how much remained. To their delight, the surviving fragments were just an unintelligible mass of words and figures. Despite Heerman's psychic insight, just to be on the safe side, Hitler altered his plans. It later transpired that the papers had fallen intact into Belgian hands, and that the courier had committed suicide before he could be sent back to Germany. In any case, Hitier had given orders that he be shot on his return.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

Nazi World Planning

Although they were virulently opposed to Freemasonry, like the masons the Nazis were deeply interested in architectural symbolism. Hitler's intimate relationship with the Occult and his love of architecture played a significant part in this, for he chose architects whom he felt expressive of the future glories of the Third Reich. During the twenties, Naziism stood implacably against everything that the Bauhaus, that seminal architectural school in Weimar which spawned the 'modern style,' represented. For instance, when Otto March, who had been chosen to design the buildings for the 1936 Olympics, produced a design in glass and concrete, Hitler vetoed it on the grounds that it was a Bauhaus design, and therefore un-German. The glass and steel partitions, ordered the Führer, must be clad in stone.

Hitler, on his accession to power, had closed the Bauhaus as 'degenerate'. His opposition to Bauhaus architecture was not merely on the grounds that many of its more prominent architects were Jewish, but because it broke with the past in a dramatic manner. Naziism, being radical-traditionalist in outlook, saw modern architecture as dangerously internationalist and detrimental to the German spirit. So it was that Hitler commissioned architects schooled in the tradition of neo-classical building to design the grandiose official buildings of the Third Reich. For domestic architecture, he ordered a return to the homely medieval style; pitched roofs, then the antithesis of the 'modern style', were compulsory. Even large apartment blocks were to have them, for flat roofs were reminiscent of Palestine, homeland of the Jews.

Although most of Hitler's megalomaniac building schemes

never got beyond the model stage, a glimpse of the New Order in architecture can be gained from what was built – the massive rally site at Nuremberg. Designed by Albert Speer in deliberate imitation of the Altar of Zeus at Pergamon in Greece, the Nuremberg structure was literally a place of worship. But the worship was secular and the gods were the Reich and the Führer. Hitler's altar was vast: thirteen hundred feet in length, a monstrous dimension contrived to dwarf the individual and ram home the message that National Socialism was the power in the land.

As Hitler's absolutism increased, so did the size of his projects. The rebuilding of Berlin was just one of his numerous maniac schemes. Ultimately, he said, Germany itself would be re-made in the image of its 'messiah'. The whole country was to become a great mesh of autobahns, linking cities, each of which would serve some specified function within the Reich as a whole. Thus Berlin was 'Capital of the Reich'; Hamburg, 'City of Foreign Trade'; Nuremberg, 'City of the Rallies', and Munich, 'Capital of the party'.

When a large part of Nuremberg was flattened to make way for Hitler's rally stadium, his architect, Albert Speer, noticed that a half-demolished tram depot was an appalling eyesore. The steel girders of the frame building were rusting, something one does not see in ancient ruins built entirely of stone. Mentioning this to Hitler, he received the order that steel framing should no longer be used in monumental buildings because when the thousand-year Reich was ended, steel framed ruins would be squalid, not grand. With the intention of making grand ruins for the Sixth Root Race to ponder in the year 3000, Hitler ordered that only the most durable and expensive materials should be used in his monuments. Even though Germany had few useful granite quarries, Hitler insisted upon granite, so it was imported from Sweden in large quantities. When the early successes of the German army in Russia had given the Nazis access to good-quality granite quarries, Hitler was jubilant. Building works of a non-essential nature continued apace in the midst of war, even, like the demolition of the Warsaw Ghetto, to the detriment of the war effort.

Since the earliest times, city planning has tended to reflect

the social order of the day. Ancient cities ruled by theocracies were laid out according to geomantic schemes reflecting the current cosmological ideas. In later, more complex, times, the differing functions of Church and State were each catered for in specially-planned districts of their own. Ancient Roman *coloniae* – colony towns – were invariably rectangular in plan, being divided into quarters by two roads which intersected at the heart of town. These two roads, the *cardo* and *decumanus*, north-south and east-west respectively, extended far beyond city limits to divide the surrounding countryside. The town was thus a microcosmic reflexion of the whole district, and, according to mythological concepts, the entire world.

Nazi planning reflected this belief. The plans for the New Berlin are steeped in geomantic concepts, which reflect Hitler's concern with place. On one occasion Hitler remarked that Vienna was oriented all wrong, and ought to be rebuilt to face the River Danube, and on other occasions he recommended the reconstruction of whole towns and cities. His famous Reich Chancellery was one plan which came to fruition. On January 11, 1938, Hitler commissioned Professor Speer to construct the monstrous structure. Typically, Hitler ordered that it should be completed by January 10, 1939 – one year precisely. Initial demolition work to clear the site was delayed by frosts, and building work could not begin until March. During the remaining nine months, a massive and grandiose stone-and-marble Chancellery was erected. Artists, artisans and labourers from all over the Reich were drawn on, making the building a microcosm of German technique. All was ready on time. "The New Reich Chancellery", wrote a contemporary publication, "represents the Reich in modern Classical form."

The heart of the Chancellery was a room ninety feet long, fifty feet wide and nearly thirty-three feet high. The walls were lined with marble from the East Marches, the floor was of Swedish marble and the coffer-work ceiling of rosewood. Heroic bronze plaques, the Reich eagle-and-swastika motif and a monumental portrait of Bismarck completed the picture. Above the twenty-foot-high door of Hitler's study was a bronze escutcheon bearing the monogram A.H.

The Chancellery was just the first part of Hitler's reconstruction of the administrative centre of Berlin. Hitler had a

passionate interest in this project, for at an early age he had studied the plans of Paris and Vienna, and had been greatly impressed by the Vienna Ringstrasse and the Parisian boulevards created by Baron Haussmann. Both cities had monumental buildings in impressive settings and Hitler wished to have the same in Berlin. Albert Speer was commissioned to produce a sweeping plan for huge boulevards, incorporating a complete urban renewal programme like that undertaken in Vienna by the mystical architect Otto Wagner fifty years earlier. In a few years Wagner had designed hundreds of official buildings, reconstructed the embankments and locks on the Vienna canals, and designed in its entirety the *Stadtbahn,* a rapid-transit rail network which serves Vienna to this day.

Hitler wished to outdo the city of his youth, but the Berlin authorities shuddered at the thought of the cost of new housing, highways, boulevards, public parks, tram subways and the diversion of the main-line railways to new termini. Infuriated, Hitler threatened to create a brand-new capital city from nothing if the Berlin local authorities did not acquiesce to his wishes. A new capital on the Müritzee in Mecklenburg, one of the sites claimed for Atlantis, was mooted: the Berlin bureaucrats relented, and Hitler's new capital was shelved. The magical powers of the existing capital were in any case greater than a new one could be. New capitals, like Karlsruhe, Washington, Canberra, Brasilia or Islamabad, even when geomantically planned (as most are), tend to be somewhat lifeless.

Hitler's plans for the New Berlin were characteristically monumental. Based upon the Champs Elysees in Paris with the Napoleonic Arc de Triomphe, Hitler's scheme was nevertheless larger. *His* monumental arch was to be so large that the Napoleonic one would fit comfortably beneath it. The boulevard running up to it was to be seventy feet wider than that in Paris. Other elements in this plan were equally megalomaniac in conception. At the far end of Hitler's ceremonial boulevard, which was to be lined with the captured weaponry of Germany's vanquished foes, was a monstrous hall covered by the largest dome ever envisaged. Based upon Scott Russell's great hall of the 1873 International Exhibition at Vienna, Hitler's hall was to be 825 feet in diameter as opposed to the

mere 312 feet of that in Vienna. The dome of Hitler's hall was a planned 726 feet high – 100 feet taller than London's Post Office Tower. A huge Nazi eagle was to surmount this vast pile, to be illuminated at night by searchlights. In its talons were to be a massive swastika. Later Hider altered the plans – the eagle was to clasp a globe, symbolizing Nazi world supremacy.

Nothing on this scale had been contemplated ever before. The capacity of the hall was sixteen times that of St Peter's in Rome. Essentially a place of worship, Hitler intended the hall to acquire an importance similar to that of the Grand Mosque at Mecca, the centre and visible outward symbol of a new faith. When, after a thousand years, the Third Reich finally ended, the ruins, Hitler believed, would remain as a magnificent reminder to the Sixth Root Race of the grandeur that was Hitler's Empire.

Detailed plans were drawn up, and demolition work was started to clear the future site of this great temple of Naziism. Hitler planned to lay the foundation stone in 1940, and the massive edifice would have been formally consecrated by the Führer at the Victory celebrations planned for 1950. Perhaps Hitler would have proclaimed himself the new Kaiser at this event. As things turned out, by 1950 Hitler had been dead for five years, and Berlin was divided and in ruins.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

The Ahnenerbe

One of the strangest and most interesting official organization in the Third Reich was the *Deutsche Ahnenerbe* – the German Ancestral Heritage Organization. Its general secretary was Untersturmführer Wolfram Sievers, later to be executed at Nuremberg for crimes against humanity. Sievers's spiritual mentor, Frederick Heilscher, had founded the organization. Ernst Jünger, the novelist who praised war in his novel *Fire and Blood*, wrote in his diary that Heilscher had founded a new religion, with a whole system of magical correspondences geared to the Pagan year. Various holy days and times of year had their own associated festivals, songs, a system of animal-, god- and colour-correspondences, stones and plants. Heilscher was to give evidence at Sievers's trial. Before his execution, Sievers was allowed to practise his neo-Pagan rituals and say arcane incantations, after which he went to the scaffold unperturbed. Heilscher had major connexions in German occultism, for he was an associate of the Swedish explorer Sven Hedin who was himself a friend of Karl Haushofer. Hedin lived for many years in Tibet, and brought much Tibetan occultism into the Nazi sphere.

Any organization founded by such out-and-out neo-Pagan occultists was bound to be something out of the ordinary. The research it undertook was quite without precedent for any government-funded organization before or since. The aims of the organization were published in the magazine *Germanien* in November 1936 on the occasion of the opening of the *Pflegstätte fur Germanenkunde* (Centre for the Study of German Antiquities) at Detmold. Attended by the full panoply of SS ritual, the opening featured speeches by SS Brigadeführer

Dr Reischle, and an address by Wilhelm Teudt, author of the Nazi earth mysteries 'bible' *Ancient German Sanctuaries.*

The aims of the Ahnenerbe were stated as follows: 1. To investigate the territorial extent and spirit of the Nordic Indo-Germanic race; 2. To institute the study of the German people's living traditions; and 3. To summon every 'People's Comrade' to work with us.

With such an extensive brief, the subjects studied by the Ahnenerbe were wide-ranging: the organization strove to investigate and chronicle all aspects of ancient German tradition or 'ancestral heritage'. These included folk song and dance, regional building styles, folklore and legends, as well as more unusual pursuits like rune-lore, symbolism, racial studies, sacred geography and the paranormal. In addition to academic study, the Ahnenerbe encouraged the revival of old folk customs like maze-running, midsummer bonfires and Yule Lights.

Top people in their field were recruited to assist the Ahnenerbe. Sievers encouraged Dr Scheffer to work with several Tibetan Lamas at various monasteries, for their supernatural powers could be of use to National Socialism. Wilhelm Teudt was employed to determine ancient ley lines, whilst a bevy of dowsers worked on earth energies. Archaeologists and experts on ancient architecture were brought in to design suitable regalia and monuments for the use of the SS. Himmler appointed Teudt as director of a programme dedicated to reviving the Externsteine as a sacred monument to the German spirit, as it had been 1200 years before. Teudt was to organize the erection of a replica Irminsul, the ancient sacred pillar of the Saxons, on the highest point of the Externsteine. The other rock pillars were to be crowned with replicas of the traditional wooden halls of ancient Germany, the 'earliest architecture of Europe', from which, Teudt's followers claimed, the classical forms of Greek temples had been derived.

Some of these halls were actually built, but not at the Externsteine. The most notable was on the holy island of Rügen, later site of strange radar experiments. In antiquity, Rügen had been a Pagan sanctuary. Over its long history, it had been held by the Danes, the Swedes and the French, finally becoming German at the overthrow of Napoleon in 1815, when

the French were forced to yield it to Prussia. In 1168, when under Danish rule, King Waldemar I of Denmark mounted a crusade against the islanders and destroyed their famous Pagan temples.

As a former Pagan shrine, the Nazis saw Rügen as a perfect place to build a great hall – the Hitler Youth Memorial. Built in memory of a Hitler Youth member, Hans Mallon, who was killed in 1931, the hall was designed in the style of ancient German buildings. 100 feet long by 24 feet wide, it was a shrine intended to link the modern world of the living with the dead heroes of the past. Constructed by the Reich Labour Corps with funds raised from SA, SS and Hitler Youth members, the hall was proportioned on the ancient stone enclosures known as 'Huns' Beds' found in the Baltic part of Germany. Lined with rough-hewn granite blocks, and thatched in traditional fashion, at one end the hall had a massive monolithic altar supported on three large stones. The gloomy interior, illuminated only by daylight through openings in the roof, resembled the Pagan temples of old, but, the Nazis claimed, it was not a reconstruction of them. "This building is not a reconstruction", wrote Hermann Wille, its chronicler, "it is a building of the present." The hall was patterned on ancient buildings, with their occult proportions and geomantic siting, yet its style was fitting for the New Order of National Socialism, "the old spirit in a new form". At the revived Pagan festival of Midwinter, the "undefeated sun", members of the Hitler Youth would worship there and meditate that the death of winter precedes the rebirth of spring.

The Hitier Youth Memorial had been designed with information supplied by the Ahnenerbe, who had made a detailed study of German monuments. Since 1875 there had been a tradition of grandiose structures glorifying the Reich. The Hermannsdenkmal, the monument to Hermann, the Germanic warrior who defeated the Roman legions in AD 9, was the first of these. Erected on a significant high point in the Teutoburger Wald, this monument had been designed by E. von Bandel as a symbol of national unity and a generator of the National Spirit. A massive statue with a raised sword, it was the localization and personification of all the heroic German myths and as such was a model for the later Nazi monuments.

The Nazis held the Hermannsdenkmal in great regard. Presentation scrolls awarded by the Nazis to former *Freikorps* men were headed with a dramatic drawing of this heroic monument. Another *Freikorps* monument, at Essen in the Ruhr, was dedicated by the Nazis in 1934. Standing on a high point overlooking the river, it was a sort of modern Stone-henge, its twenty-two uprights supporting an annular roof. In the centre was another structure bearing a flag-pole upon which flew the ubiquitous swastika banner. Although Stonehenge originally had thirty uprights in the circle, the resemblance was obvious, and a psychic link with the distant past.

An actual copy of a traditional megalithic tomb was built by the SS at Hovelte in Denmark. Commemorating the fallen of the volunteer Waffen-SS *Freikorps Danmark,* it was a two-tiered circular conical earth mound surmounted by a dolmen – a large stone resting on two smaller megaliths. Around the perimeter of the mound were smaller standing stones and set into the earth of the mound itself were rectangular stone slabs bearing the roll-call of the slain. At the head of each slab was a curved Thule-type swastika. The monument was blown up by the Danish Resistance in May 1945.

All of these Nazi monuments had one thing in common – they consciously echoed the past in their design, siting and intent. None survive today, but from photographs and drawings one can sense the degree of care and thought which went into each design.

The ideas of the Ahnenerbe were expressed at all levels, from buildings down to the occult-heraldic design of badges and insignia. One spinoff of Ahnenerbe research was the SS porcelain factory at Allach, whose shop was in Berlin's Hermann Goering Strasse. The Allach factory produced reproductions of urns, plates, vases and vessels based upon ancient German prototypes. The design of these was entrusted to a special department of the Ahnenerbe, and each new design was based upon an ancient example specially selected for its symbolic and historical value. These symbols, selected by luminaries like Hauptsturmfuhrer Professor Dr Herman Wirth, leader of the Detachment for Writing- and Symbolism-Studies, Nazi expert on the swastika, runes and Icelandic

geomancy. Said to be "from the roots of the people", these symbols included the Tree of Life, swastikas in both directions, and runes. SS excavations were keenly watched in the hope that some new relic would be found from which reproductions could be made. The most popular reproductions were made in large numbers, and sold well, especially to keen SS collectors.

Special 'one-offs' were made for high-ranking officials. For example, on his birthday, October 7, 1937, Heinrich Himmler was presented with an urn made from a design selected by SS Sturmbannführer R. T. Wiegel from the Landesmuseum in Hanover. A vessel covered in *Odal*-runes and Trees of Life, it was copied-from a burial urn from Jacob-Friesen dated about AD 450.

In January 1939, the Ahnenerbe was incorporated as a fully-fledged department of the SS and its staff absorbed into the personal staff of Himmler. By 1939 the organization had expanded to over fifty departments, each studying a particular aspect of ancient mysteries. When the SS took over, Wilhelm Teudt, who was after all nearly eighty years of age, faded into the background and nothing more was heard of him. He died in obscurity in 1942.

Research into earth mysteries continued apace, for Himmler now knew that geomancy was the key to psychic control over nations. The Ahnenerbe continued studies into tihe connexion of race with house-design, following on the work of Dr Georg Buschan. In 1926, Buschan's book *Illustrierte Völkerkunde* (Illustrated Folk Studies) had detailed the many variations in folk art, customs, costumes, manners and race in Germany. There had also been a section on house layout. Students of vernacular architecture had identified several distinct types of traditional room-layout which related to specific districts. A different arrangement would be found, for instance, in Westphalia than in East Prussia; and the form also could be related to racial types. Himmler seized upon this and collected house plans from Czechoslovakia, Poland and the Baltic States for his Ahnenerbe experts to 'prove' German origins for these countries and so provide 'scientific' justification for annexing them to the Reich.

Himmler also charged the Ahnenerbe with the care of vari-

ous historic buildings which would become tourist attractions when Germany had won the war. One of these was the bunker from which Hitler directed the conquest of France in 1940. Another was the Staronová Synagogue in Prague, which dated from the thirteenth century. Himmler ordered it to be spared destruction, as he wanted to preserve it as a museum to an extinct race.

Another Hebrew sacred site spared by the SS was the ancient Jewish cemetery at Worms in the Rhineland. Buried in holy sand specially brought mere from Jerusalem lie the remains of over 2,000 Jews who lived in the city between 1076 and 1911. The oldest part of the graveyard was laid out in the form of a triangle, with a more modern rectangular addition. During the 1930s, two local Nazi officials had advocated the razing of the cemetery for redevelopment, but orders from Berlin forbade it. Himmler had visited the graveyard in a party of ordinary sightseers, and had obtained from the custodian a precise plan complete with measurements and orientation for his 'Judaica Library'. After careful consideration, Himmler ordered that the cemetery should be left unvandalized lest the geomancy of the site should be altered and thus harm the city.

The SS interest in graveyards as receptacles of dead spirits was the reason for a most bizarre practice. The SS magazine *Die Schwartze Korps* encouraged SS men to procreate reincarnations of ancient German heroes by having sexual intercourse in ancient German cemeteries. *Die Schwartze Korps* regularly published lists of appropriate graveyards, having first, of course, had Ahnenerbe officials examine them lest they might contain 'racially inferior' interments.

The sparing of the Worms Cemetery or the Staronová Synagogue were exceptional, for it was the deliberate policy of the SS to destroy all traces of non-German culture. In the Soviet Union, the SS deliberately razed a total of 427 museums, including those at Leningrad, Smolensk, Stalingrad, Poltava and Novgorod. Art works of western origin were removed to Germany, but the rest were wantonly destroyed in a frenzied orgy of devastation. The Ahnenerbe was responsible for the 'processing' of looted works of art. On June 26 1939, shortly after the Ahnenerbe had become an SS unit, Hitler issued the following directive from Obersalzberg, one of his

fortified retreats: "I commission Dr Hans Posse, Director of the Dresden Art Gallery, to build up the new art museums for Linz. All Party and State services are ordered to assist Dr Posse in the fulfilment of his mission". This mission was looting. Under die auspices of the Ahnenerbe, Posse travelled widely in occupied Europe selecting paintings which expressed the 'spirit of ancient Germany'. Hitler's fantastic dream of rebuilding the Austrian city of Linz as the artistic showpiece of the New Order required mat the greatest collection of German art should be housed there. A whole organization, Sonderauftrag Linz, was set up, under Hitler's direct supervision, to realize this grandiose aim.

Hitler's elimination of all art but that approved by the party is yet another example of psychic totalitarianism in action. His pathological fear of anything 'alien' led him to believe that non-German art was somehow psychically dangerous to the German people. Himmler was not so worried about painting and sculpture; his psychical paranoia concerned buildings. He thought that the Reichsbank, completed shortly after the Nazis' accession to power, was a geomantic attempt by the Christians to influence financial matters in Germany. The building had been designed in the form of a Christian cross by a Roman Catholic architect named Wolf. After that scare, they determined that nothing more should be built without the approval of the party, and Himmler's Ahnenerbe minions vetted every application.

Whilst the Ahnenerbe's research into the occult properties of church bells or the symbolism of the suppression of the Irish harp in Ulster may appear almost endearing, their ultimate aim was the consolidation of Nazi power. Wolfram Sievers was more than just an occult hobbyist, for he was instrumental in obtaining Jewish skulls for Nazi racial scientists. In 1941, Professor August Hirt, director of the Anatomical Institute of the University of Strasbourg, approached the Ahnenerbe with a macabre request. He pointed out that his racial studies were suffering because, although the Institute had an ample collection of human skulls of most races, his Jewish collection was too small. He believed that the SS could remedy this shortcoming. Hirt suggested to Sievers that 'Jewish-Bolshevik Commissars' could be captured alive in large numbers, their bodies

carefully measured, and then that death could be "induced in a way that did not damage the skull." A doctor could then remove the head from the corpse and dispatch it in a specially-designed tin can to the Strasbourg Institute. Sievers thought this a great contribution to science, and the sinister sealed cans soon began arriving at the Institute.

Although the SS unceremoniously disposed of millions of other human beings, the send-off they gave their own men was an awesome ritual. As every SS man had abjured the Christian faith, the Ahnenerbe came up with an acceptable neo-Pagan funeral service as substitute for the Christian rite. The apotheosis of these funerals was that given to deputy SS leader Reinhard Heydrich after his assassination in Czechoslovakia and the funeral of the Danish Nazi Christian Fredrik von Schalburg. Von Schalburg's funeral, attended by members of the Danish royal family and government as well as senior SS officers, produced the full panoply of SS symbolism and ritual. Stage-managed as well as any Christian royal state funeral, SS leaders gave moving funeral orations beneath a twenty-foot-high banner bearing die runes SS and the name of the departed. At the foot of this ritual banner lay the coffin, draped with the swastika, flanked on either side by black draped pedestals, each bearing a sacrificial bowl of fire. Nazi flags, hundreds of Pagan wreaths and helmeted guards of honour completed the picture. It was as if some dark age order of Knights had resurrected itself in the midst of the twentieth century.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

The Castle of Klingsor

By 1934, Himmler's own recognition of geomancy made him realize that if he could find a significant place for the centre of his Black Order, then he could psychically influence the whole of Germany. Deeply conscious of the magical aspect of earth mysteries, by a seeming-innocent interest in the preservation of ancient monuments, he managed to gain personal control of those places he considered magically powerful. Geomants in the Ahnenerbe selected for his headquarters an ancient fortress in Westphalia, Schloss Wewelsburg. The castle had a long and varied history, having been founded by the Bishops of Paderborn and taking its name from the robber Baron Wewel von Buren. It is said that Himmler had heard a prophecy that the castle would be the sole survivor of the next assault from the east, as it had been the focus of Saxon resistance against the Huns fifteen hundred years earlier.

Schloss Wewelsburg was triangular, a form immediately recognizable as geomantically significant by Himmler's Ahnenerbe adepts. The Moscow Kremlin and the Westminster complex, also seats of sacred and secular government, are likewise triangular in form. On July 27 1934, Schloss Wewelsburg became Himmler's property for the nominal rent of one mark per annum. The local authority, which was formerly responsible for the upkeep of the crumbling castle, was only too pleased to hand over what they saw as a liability, but when Himmler became its proud new owner, he wasted no time in commencing its renovation. The Reichsführer-SS informed Schmitt, Reich Minister of Economics, "I propose to develop Wewelsburg … as a Reich SS leaders' school and request the highest possible government grant to meet the building expenses."

From among his personal entourage, Himmler set up a special Wewelsburg Office under Standartenführer Siegfried Taubert, who in 1937 received the grand title of 'Fortress Commandant'. Himmler's architect, Hermann Battels, was charged with the reconstruction work in association with Ahnenerbe experts. All work was carried out by a specially-chosen detachment of the Reich Labour Corps under the direction of SS advisers.

The castle was to be more than just a staff college, more a symbolic microcosm of German history and the Germanic spirit. Walter Schellenberg, who was later, on the assassination of Heydrich, to take command of the secret intelligence service, the SD, described the workings of the inner sanctum of Naziism: "It was adapted to serve as a sort of SS monastery! There a secret chapter of the Order assembled each year. Each member had his own armchair with an engraved silver nameplate, and each had to devote himself to a ritual of spiritual exercises directed mainly at mental concentration." The place where these spiritual exercises took place was at a sacred table in the heart of Schloss Wewelsburg. There, in a hall measuring a massive 145 by 100 feet, stood Himmler's Round Table, modelled on that of Arthurian legend. Around this oaken table were the thirteen chairs mentioned by Schellenberg. Each of the thirteen 'knights' had his own quarters in Wewelsburg, decorated in the historical styles of old Germanic heroes and dedicated to the appropriate man.

Beneath the Schloss Wewelsburg was the shrine for the final ceremony of each knight. Directly beneath the Great Hall was a grim stone crypt with walls five feet in thickness. Known as *The Realm of the Dead,* this crypt had at its centre a well-like cavity containing a stone stoup. Around the walls of the *Realm of the Dead* were twelve niches. In the event of an Obergruppenführer's death, his coat of arms was to be ceremonially burnt in the stoup and its ashes placed upon a pedestal in the appropriate niche. An Allach porcelain urn would have been the receptacle for the ashes. Four vents in the crypt's ceiling were scientifically arranged so that the smoke would ascend in a single dramatic column.

The whole arrangement of a crypt beneath a holy site was modelled upon the Jesuit-planned Pantheon of the Kings at the

Monastery of El Escorial near Madrid. The shrine, constructed after the mystical exegesis of the *Book of Ezekiel* by Villalpanda, is the burial place of the kings of Spain, the last burial there being as recently as 1980, when the former king's body was brought back with great ceremony. Like the Pantheon of the Kings, the Realm of the Dead was to have held the remains of the supreme leader of Germany – Adolf Hitler.

This harking back to ancient monarchy was shown nowhere better than in Himmler's elaborate mystique. "He was the first among equals … was known as Duke and King and was a Führer a thousand years ago." So proclaimed Heinrich Himmler at one of the strangest ceremonies in the whole bizarre history of the Third Reich. He was speaking in 1936 at the Cathedral of Quedlinburg in the Harz Mountains, on the occasion of the millennium of the death of King Heinrich der Vogler (Henry the Fowler), founder of the First Reich. In doing honour to his spiritual forerunner, Himmler was engaged in a propaganda exercise for himself and the Black Order of the SS.

Days before the impressive ceremony, Himmler's men had taken over not only the Cathedral itself, but also Burg Dankwarderode castle at Brunswick, also founded by Heinrich der Vogler, and the Royal Estate of Quedlinburg itself. The Royal Estate subsequently became a national monument under the auspices of the Ahnenerbe. The Cathedral itself was 'purified' by the removal of Christian statues and ornaments, and the burial vault of Heinrich was put under permanent SS guard.

Himmler invited Party luminaries to a 'Festival of Germans' celebrating the millennium of Heinrich der Vogler's death. Buildings in the city were decked with swastika and runic banners, and at night the Cathedral was illuminated with floodlights. Gunter d'Alquen, editor of *Die Schwartze Korps,* the official SS magazine, recorded the ceremonies in an illustrated brochure.

Accompanied by officials and a special detachment of Hitler Youth flagbearers, Himmler inspected the Castle of Dankwarderode and the Royal Estate, where he was shown the Wigperti Crypt, still preserved intact from Heinrich der Vogler's era. "We already felt he was among us up at his castle," wrote

d'Alquen. Himmler was certain of this. Alone at midnight he would visit the crypt at Quedlinburg Cathedral and commune with the spirit of the first Kaiser, using his occult knowledge of spiritual exercises to heighten the experience.

On the day of die ceremony, Himmler and hand-picked representatives of State and Party marched in solemn pilgrimage up the narrow roadway to the Cathedral between immaculate ranks of SS-Standarte "Germania", described by d'Alquen as "like true knights of old in the service of their lord." "They may call us Pagan, uncomprehendingly," continued d'Alquen, "but if they could have seen us then, they would have experienced what real German piety is – fitting our faith and kind."

Inside die Cathedral, Himmler gave his famed 'Henry the Fowler' speech, exhorting Germans to emulate the brave deeds of the archetypal Führer, attacking Christianity and the 'effete' Roman world represented by Charlemagne. Just as Heinrich had rebuilt Germany from weakness and indecision, he claimed, so Hitler had raised again the German spirit towards a new glorious era of world prominence. The analogy was hammered home in the unsubtie manner of most propaganda. Hitler was the new Heinrich, the Third Reich emulated the First, the east must be conquered … etc.

Photographs in d'Alquen's brochure depict Himmler in the Cathedral during the 'benediction' of Hitier Youth banners (a favourite Nazi ritual), Himmler giving the password – "King Henry and Germany!" – to the SS honour guard, and Himmler laying a wreath on the tomb of Heinrich's consort, Queen Mathilde. By re-enacting the ritual of ancient Saxony, Himmler strove to re-forge the "broken links of the chain of life", placing his SS as intermediary between the heroic mythical past and the hopeful New Order of the National Socialist future.

A year later, on July 2 1937, Himmler solemnly reinterred the remains of Heinrich der Vogler in the crypt of the Cathedral. Until the fall of the Third Reich, each anniversary at midnight would see Himmler there alone meditating in silent communion with the ancient Saxon monarch.

CHAPTER NINETEEN

The Mountain of the Grail

St Benedict has been called the father of monasticism, for he was the founder of the immensely successful and powerful Benedictine Order of monks. St Benedict lived at the time of King Arthur during the sixth century of the Christian Era, and, according to the French occultist Alfred Weysen, originally bore the Hebrew name Baruch, the name attributed to Zarathustra, Persian founder of the Aryan Mazdean religion. Whatever the connexions, Benedict travelled around Europe founding monasteries upon sites of ancient Pagan sanctity. His most famous foundation was the mountaintop monastery of Monte Cassino, one of the holy mountains in Europe's geomantic energy system. Benedict died in the year 544, 700 years before the Cathar disaster at Montségur and 1400 years before the fanatical defence of Monte Cassino by the German army. We will return to the '700 year rule' later.

After Benedict's death, the order continued to expand. Benedictine houses were founded all over Europe, almost invariably upon the most powerful shrines of earlier Christians or Pagans. By 1100, most of the key national shrines of Europe were administered by Benedictines. The two most important English religious houses, for example, the Abbeys at Glastonbury and Westminster, were Benedictine.

The conquest and conversion of Bohemia by Germans of the First Reich was accomplished widi the assistance of Benedictine monks, and it is here that we can see their methods. During the German occupation of Czechoslovakia, 1936-44, Kurt Gerlach made a detailed study of the dates of foundation and positioning of these Benedictine houses. He found that politically significant points were also geometrically related:

before building began a geomantic survey was carried out. In the Belin district, important places were positioned with relation to the capital Staditz (Stadice). To the west of Prague, 66 kilometres away, was the town of Saaz, 44 km from Staditz. Cech, founder of the Czech nation, was buried atop St George's Hill (a holy mountain) at Rip (Raudenice). St George's Hill is 33 km from Prague. Gerlach thought that this landscape geometry was German in origin, using the quarter-*Raste* of 11 kilometres.

This measurement, related to the old German league of 440 metres, was also shown to be related to the wavelength of the W-force studied by Himmler's dowsers, Wüst and Wimmer, which they found travels at 44 metres per second. Gerlach's findings affirm that the Benedictines were controlling the telluric lines of force. Their magical technology gave them power over those territories where they held the holy mountains and other key geomantic sites. In England, they have connexions with the mysterious turf mazes which dowsers have shown to be powerful sites of earth energy, and from the eighteenth century onwards, Benedictine monks or ex-members of the Order have appeared in the shadows of many occult societies, including the Masonic Lodge of Frederick the Great of Prussia. Hitler himself attended a Benedictine boys' school, and the greatest modern architect, Le Corbusier, was influenced by the ideas of sacred geometricians at Beuron monastery, a Benedictine house.

The Benedictines, then, were involved with sacred geography as a means of psychic control of subject nations. This involved the manipulation of subtle energies which are allegorically known as the Holy Grail, symbolized or concentrated in a cup or stone. The legend appears in the various Arthurian romances and their offshoots, and was a favourite theme for the troubadours of the middle ages. Parsifal and the Quest for the Grail held a special importance for the Nazis. Richard Wagner's operatic interpretation of the tale had given it a peculiarly German twist and his genius had produced an immortal work of art which made a deep impression on mystical nationalists. It was one such mystical nationalist, Otto Rahn, who, fired by the tale of Parsifal, set out on a modern quest for the Grail.

Rahn believed that he had found the location of the Holy Grail Mountain, the Montsalvat of legend, in the mountain fortress of Montségur in the French Pyrenees. In 1931, Rahn travelled to France in search of the Grail. He made his way to Montségur, where in 1244 the heretical Cathars had made their last heroic stand against a Catholic crusade which finally triumphed in their destruction. Here, tradition affirms that on the night before the final assault, three Cathars carrying the sacred relics of the faith slipped unnoticed over the wall. They carried away the magical regalia of the Merovingian King Dagobert II and a cup reputed to be the Holy Grail.

Possession of the Grail has always been the dream of chivalric orders. The Knights of King Arthur's Round Table, the Templars, even the Teutonic Knights have sought the mystic vessel. But Otto Rahn believed that he could triumph where centuries of questing had failed. He had studied the sacred geometry of Montségur, its sunrise orientations and its relationships with other sacred places, and had discovered secret underground passages where he felt the treasure must be concealed. In 1933, he published a book on his finds. Titled *The Crusade for the Grail,* Rahn's book identified Montségur with Montsalvat, the Grail Mountain. In a follow-up book *The Heart of Lucifer,* he expanded his views on the political connexions of Catharism. In 1937, Rahn sent a consignment of his 'finds' from Montségur to Germany. The recipient of this; package was Heinrich Himmler. In his book *Hitler y la Tradición Catara (Hitler and the Cathar Tradition),* Jean-Michel Angebert claims that this package contained nothing less than the Holy Grail, or at least something Rahn believed was the True Grail. Angebert reports that the vessel was taken to Schloss Wewelsburg where it was placed on a marble pedestal in the *Realm of the Dead* beneath the Great Hall.

According to some reports, Rahn was rewarded for his efforts by imprisonment in a concentration camp, where he was murdered in 1943. Other sources assert that Rahn committed ritual suicide by taking cyanide. It was March 1939. A bizarre element to this self-immolation is provided by the location; on top of the Kufstein mountain in Germany, one of the sacred peaks of the Old Religion. In the manner of the Cathar heretics, Rahn voluntarily left a world he saw disintegrating.

Perhaps he had come to realize that the object of great power he had found had fallen into the clutches of evil, and would henceforth be employed for destructive purposes.

Rahn had used landscape geometry to find the location of the 'True Grail'. It had been placed at a significant point on the geomantic pattern of the Pyrenees at a point where it could do the most good. There is a long tradition of sacred geography in France which is generally held to be the work of the Druids and later the Templars. The Cathars, too, must have had access to this knowledge if we are to believe Rahn. One of the most significant figures in the landscape geometry of France is the 'Hermetic Star of the Templars', a vast seven-pointed figure overlying the whole of France. The points of the star mark important sacred places, each place being sacred to one of the seven astrological 'planets'. Another major figure is the 'Sacred Rectangle of the Gauls', esoterically stated to be one of the 'three tables of the Grail'. This massive figure links key geomantic sites in Britain, France, Germany and the Netherlands. In their book *Le Secret des Druides (The Secret of the Druids)* published in Brussels in 1970, Willy and Marcel Brou describe this vast array of ley lines. They link the shrines at Trier in Germany (also on Gerlach's line Toul-Oldenburg), Avebury and Stonehenge in Britain, the holy islands of Ouessant in France and Walcharen in Holland, St Nazaire, Carnac and Lisieux, all centres of Pagan or Christian religious devotion. These vast geometries are linked with telluric forces which energize these places recognized as sacred.

Whether or not these vast patterns actually exist on the ground, and whether their geometry is precise and accurate, in occult terms they can still function. Control of visualization is a fundamental skill of occultism which must be acquired by every aspirant. Many schools of magic teach methods of attaining this ability, but whatever the system employed, visualization is the tool for magically influencing events. Grids and networks linking key sites in the landscape provide a conceptual framework for visualization. Even if they are no more than mere figments of the imagination, they will still function. Their connexion with detectable earth energies, however, makes them doubly potent, for the adept is then dealing with real forces.

In the Montségur district, the geometry forms a pentagram linked to a midsummer-sunrise line, and this was studied by the geomants whom Himmler sent to the south of France shortly after France's capitulation in 1940. They also started excavations. In June 1943, a major expedition was mounted by the Ahnenerbe. A large group of Nazi scientists descended on the area and began frantic excavations at Montségur. Various things were found, crated up and despatched to the now-shrinking Reich.

Hitler had asserted that the turning-points of history occurred every seven hundred years. An old German legend states that a hidden treasure rises from beneath the ground every seven centuries and Himmler linked this with the Grail. In spiritual history, significant events had occurred in AD 544 and AD 1244. St Benedict, convertor of holy mountains, had died in 544, which was also the reputed year of the death of King Arthur. In 1244, the Cathars at Montségur had been exterminated. Both King Arthur and the Cathars were reputed to have possessed the Grail.

In world history 1944, too, was a turning point. The Third Reich was well and truly doomed, and the atomic bomb, that demonic product of the New Alchemy, was imminent. In that year, the key battle to rid Italy of the Germans was fought on a Benedictine holy mountain, for on January 17, 1944 began the legendary Battle of Monte Cassino. Founded by St Benedict himself, the monastery of Monte Cassino was constructed on top of one of the holy mountains in the energy-system of Europe, and as such had a double importance: it was strategically vital in both the orthodox military and in the occult sense.

The orders received by General von Vietinghoff were unequivocal: he must hold the holy mountain at all costs. The battle was to reflect this last-ditch order. The allies at first threw in one armoured and six infantry divisions, but as the battle dragged on, this was increased to thirteen infantry and three armoured divisions. On the German side, five infantry and four panzer divisions defended Monte Cassino. After four months' fighting, and with the loss of eight divisions' strength, the Allies finally took the holy mountain. But before this happened, half a square mile of the mountain was reduced to dust.

On March 14, 1944, 500 Allied bombers dropped over 1000 tons of bombs in three and a half hours, after which six hundred heavy field guns kept up the barrage. Meanwhile, a few hundred miles away at Montségur, a strange sight could be seen. On March 16, the 700th anniversary of the Cathar holocaust, Nazi officials including, it is said, Alfred Rosenberg, made a flying visit. A Fieseler *Storch* light aircraft flew over the site making smoke. It described the form of a vast sunwheel and then flew off in the direction of Toulouse. Hanging over the holy mountain of the Cathars was a vast Celtic Cross. On a vast scale, the Nazi earth magicians had carried out one of the traditional rituals for magical protection – the rite of the Rose Cross.

This magical act somehow paid off. Fighting raged for three days in the ruins of Monte Cassino monastery, but the fanatical resistance of the German First Parachute Division forced back the Allies. Two more months of bombardment were to continue before a veritable united nations of troops assaulted the stronghold for the last time. British, Polish, Moroccan, New Zealand and United States troops pounded the remains of the monastery until finally resistance crumbled and on the morning of May 18, 1944, the Polish flag was raised over the rubble that was Benedict's monastery. Eighteen days later, the Allies landed in Normandy, medieval stronghold of the Benedictines. The days of the Third Reich were numbered.

CHAPTER TWENTY

Memoirs of the Demonic Empire

> Then follow the snows and the furious winds, for the gods are doomed, and the end is death.
>
> *Voluspá*

All of the theories and discoveries made by German occultists and the Ahnenerbe came into their own when war broke out in 1939. Just as scientific weapons and defensive research suddenly found itself in the forefront of battle, so psychic warfare too became a key area of applied research. The phenomenal inventiveness of Nazi science only came to light after the defeat of the Reich: it was credited with the invention of the world's first flying jet aircraft, nerve gases, TV-guided missiles, rocket planes thirty years ahead of their time, and ballistic missiles which formed the basis for the postwar space programmes of both the USA and USSR. On the unorthodox side, Nazi technicians were equally inventive.

The place where the 'occult arts' and official science came closest together is in the realm of earth-radio-magnetic-psychic energies. By the 1930s, luminaries like Nikola Tesla claimed that electronic research was close to perfecting the 'death ray'. German scientists saw this as the ultimate weapon which would guarantee world supremacy. Working with high-voltage X-rays die Nazi physicist Schieboldt attempted to develop a ray that would destroy an aircraft in flight. Code-named *Hadubrand,* a similar device used intersecting beams of infrared energy to burn up enemy aeroplanes. This line of study proved fruitless, but one of its spinoffs was the electron microscope, now a fundamental research tool in both biology

and materials science. Hitler had said "If we had more powerful microscopes, we would discover new worlds," and the electron microscope did just this. It has indeed been one of the few useful legacies of the Third Reich.

In connexion with this high-energy research, various mysterious 'transmitters' were erected at several 'key points' in the Reich. In 1938, the Brocken, a celebrated peak in the Harz mountains, was the site of feverish construction work. Holy mountain of the goddess Freyja, the Brocken is best known for the curious optical phenomenon known as the 'Brocken Spectre', which occurs when the shadow of a person on the summit is cast by the rays of the sun onto a cloud below. Under some conditions, this 'spectre' has a saintly halo around its head.

This 'transmitter' was a strange contraption, a tower surrounded by an array of posts with pear-shaped knobs on top. At the same time a similar system was erected on the peak of the Feldberg near Frankfurt. When it began operation, there were soon reports of strange phenomena in the vicinity of the Brocken tower. Cars travelling along the mountain roads would suddenly have engine failure. A Luftwaffe sentry would soon spot the stranded car, and tell the puzzled motorist that it was no use trying to get the car started at present. After a while, the sentry would tell the driver that the engine would work again now, and the car would then start up and drive away.

Years later, after the war, the 'car paralysis' phenomenon was reported time and again in association with UFO sightings. Whatever its function, this 'transmitter' was emanating a field of energy sufficient to short-circuit the electrical systems of nearby cars. Similar occurrences have been reported on Salisbury Plain in the vicinity of Stonehenge, but whether they have been due to some activity of the stones themselves, or the military presence in the area, is as yet undetermined.

Fields of this type have certainly been observed around stone circles. Emanations of unknown energies can be manifested in several ways: as magnetism, heat, an oppressive 'atmosphere', sound, or light. The phenomenon known as 'spirit lights' is often observed in places of exceptional psychical activity. The haunted church at Borley in Essex is one place where the phenomenon had been seen recently. The

Theosophist Sinnett claimed that this phenomenon, whether of the mildly phosphorescent or the dazzling electrical variety, was produced by altering the 'vibrations of the ether'. "It is obvious", wrote Sinnett, "that anyone who knows how to set up these vibrations can readily produce any kind of light that he wishes." Among the classes of light he mentions "those curious dancing globules of light into which certain classes of fire elementals so readily transform themselves."

In 1944, crews of United States Army Air Corps bombers flying on raids over Germany complained of a new Nazi secret weapon. The phenomenon was at its maximum in November and December of that year, and it became so familiar that the name 'Foo Fighters' was coined to describe it. Small balls or discs of light or fire would suddenly appear from out of nowhere, and 'buzz' the aircraft, threatening to send them out of control. Aircrew reported that the Foo Fighters appeared to move in an intelligent fashion. Six or eight of them would approach in perfect formation, turning and banking in unison with the aircraft.

The Foo Fighters were universally supposed to be another secret weapon in the armoury that had already produced rocket and jet fighter planes and guided missiles. After the war, nothing was revealed by the victorious Allies, even though the secret plane and missile projects of Alexander Lippisch and Werner von Braun were made public. At no time did any German admit to having made small reconnaissance craft. Such luminous objects, however, appear to have a different origin, being yet another example of Vril in action. Cosmic fire, spirit lights, treasure fire, foo fighters and the like are all the product of the control or disruption of the 'etheric currents' Himmler's earth magicians strove to master. Perhaps they were unintentional products of an experimental tinkering with earth energies by Himmler's inexperienced technicians. Perhaps the war ended before they could unleash what would certainly be a devastating force if properly controlled.

Wartime research into Very Low Frequency (VLF) sound, the opposite of ultrasonics, showed its promise as a weapon. There is a natural waveguide between the ionosphere and the Earth which can be used to propagate VLF radiation and channel it to designated locations on the Earth's surface. VLF

subtly affects the electrical behaviour of the human brain. The alpha-wave frequency of the brain is around 8-12 *hertz* (cycles per second). The oscillation of the ionospheric waveguide is also 8 *hertz.* Artificially increasing these low-frequency oscillations by specially-built generators could impair the performance of a whole country's population over extended periods. Prolonged application of VLF could demobilize the entire productive capacity of the civilian population of an enemy nation. Himmler's SS scientists were aware of these possibilities and found that the propagation of these waves can also be achieved by creating lightning – one of Nikola Tesla's demonstrated abilities.

The effects of microwaves on the nervous system is also of military importance. Even when they are of low intensity, microwaves can seriously alter the normal rhythm of brain waves, causing drastic perceptual distortions including hallucinations, and loss of the sense of time. Microwave radiation has recently been detected coming from standing stones, and it is quite possible that Himmler's Ahnenerbe researchers knew this. There can be little coincidence in the observation that Nazi German radio and radar stations were constructed on ancient mark-points in the land's sacred geography.

During the 1970s, the American Central Intelligence Agency announced that the Soviets were experimenting with psychical phenomena for strategic purposes. The *International Times* reported that a Dr Eerkens had been called in by the CIA to investigate that research. "The Russians discovered that an energy field constantly flows around the Earth at the speed of light," reported the *International Times,* "the human brain, acting as a transmitter, can put an electrically-charged thought into this stream of energy which carries it until another brain, acting as a receiver, picks it up." Eerkens believed that this system could "brainwash a man".

These 'recent discoveries' arc very close to Sinnett's claims of almost a century ago, and it is surprising that the CIA took so long to become interested when Anglican monks and Nazis had detected it fifty years earlier. If they had done their homework properly, they would have known about Professor Wimmer's visit to Himmler in December 1942. In the midst of war, at Zhitomir on occupied Russian soil, Himmler and

eminent members of the Ahnenerbe met with Wimmer for a 'dowsing seminar'. Himmler had taken possession of the key points in Russia's sacred geography and was desperately attempting to optimize his psychic control.

The case had been overtly stated in the *Deutsche Bergwerks-Zeitung* for March 8, 1942, which expressed Haushofer's geopolitics in terms of esoteric sacred geography. It showed how the expansion of the Reich into the rest of Europe was as a right-handed spiral, an ever-increasing swastika of influence, growing organically across the globe. Useful power-centres were to be appropriated for the use of Naziism whilst unsuitable ones would be obliterated. New power centres, too, like Hitler's Great Hall in Berlin, could be created in order to further some aim. And here we come upon the solution of a military enigma. Many military commentators have been puzzled why Hitler chose Rastenburg as the site of his headquarters for the invasion of the Soviet Union, set as it was in the swampy woodlands of Die Görlitz among the Masurian Lakes of East Prussia.

Apart from the Berlin Bunker where Hitler met his end, of all his headquarters that at Rastenburg is most famous, for here, in July 1944, occurred the unsuccessful 'bomb plot' attempt on his life. Officially known as Führerhauptquartier Wolfsschanze (Leader's Headquarters Fort Wolf), the fortress was a strongly-fortified encampment laid out in a minor East Prussian wood. Close to the former stronghold of the Teutonic Knights at Rastenburg (now Ketzryn in Poland), the site is of great geomantic interest. The name *Rastenburg* itself was identified by Heinsch with ley lines. Before the fort was constructed, the area contained a small *Kurhaus* or spa on the site of an ancient holy well – one of the types of site immemorially associated with sacred geography.

When Hitler's engineers laid out the fortress in 1940-41, they incorporated a civilian graveyard lying astride a ley line which ran from a high point west of Rastenburg, through a church in the town, the church and chapel at Karlshof near Krausendorf, a suburb of Rastenburg, through the site of the *Kurhaus* itself (a high point at 137 metres above sea level), on through the graveyard to the island of Tautenburg and thence to the village of Schwiddern. Himmler's headquarters in East

Prussia, Hochwald, was situated in another wood twelve miles away to the north east of the Wolfsschanze. It was linked to the *Kurhaus* by another ley line which ran from Hochwald via the *Kurhaus* to several high points (marked by triangulation markers) to the south-east and south-west of the town of Rastenburg itself. In *Ancient German Sanctuaries,* Wilhelm Teudt had noted the coincidence of triangulation markers in his holy lines and it was borne in mind by Himmler's men when selecting the site of Hochwald.

The occult function of the headquarters is obvious. Placing them in significant positions according to sacred geography enabled their rulers to transmit psychic power over the areas covered by the geomantic grid. Of these two lines, one ran almost due east-west whilst the other, which linked the two sites, ran towards the north-east in the direction of Moscow.

In his book *Exorcising Devils,* published in 1976, the Anglican exorcist Dom Robert Petitpierre recounts an earlier instance of the political use of psychic geomancy. In 1926, his mentor Gilbert Shaw, vice-principal of St Paul's Missionary College, Burgh-le-Marsh, Lincolnshire, became convinced that occult pressures were being directed at Britain from Soviet Russia during the General Strike. Shaw knew that ancient peoples had used ley lines for psychic attacks upon their enemies; gathering together at a ritual meeting, they would generate psychical forces that were then projected along the lines to their intended target. Shaw felt that the college was on one such line, which ran from Russia to Mount Snowdon, one of the Pagan holy mountains of Britain. During the strike period, he and Petitpierre felt intense psychic pressures passing through the chapel from east to west. Shaw believed that he could counter this demonic interference and found that the energies focussed upon an ancient Pagan burial mound at the centre of the village. While Petitpierre stood guard, Shaw blessed the site and exorcised the mound. From that day on, psychic pressures in the chapel ceased. During the Battle of Britain, it is said that covens of British witches raised a cone of power over the island to prevent Hitler's psychic forces operating. They were successful in their counter-magic.

One afternoon in 1942, a courier brought Adolf Hitler the latest despatches from the Russian Front. The German army

was engaged in a life-or-death attempt to break through the Caucasus mountains to Tiflis along the old mountain road from Grozny. With serious reverses at Stalingrad, and disastrous losses mounting on all fronts, things were beginning to look decidedly bleak.

The Führer carefully perused the despatches. Suddenly, he exploded with rage. "The madmen!" he spat, "they belong before a court-martial for pursuing their idiotic hobbies in time of war!"

He had read that a detachment of *Gebirgsjäger* (Mountain Troops) had broken away from the main column. They had climbed Mount Elbruz just to plant the swastika flag upon its summit. Such an act of bravado did not impress Hitler, weighed down with the realization that he was beginning to lose the war. What could these men have been doing climbing mountains when they ought to have been combatting Bolshevism? Their motivation was deeper than just a hobby, but Hitler was not in on the secret, for he railed against them for days with more than his usual vehemence. What was going on?

To find out, we must go back to the eighth century of the Christian era. In that century, the *Bundahish,* a corpus of old Persian writings, was collected together. It is a treatise on the world mountain and the hierarchy of spheres connected with ancient Aryan cosmology. This world mountain, sacred to Ahuramazda, god of light, was none other than Elbruz. To conquer Elbruz, fountain of all earth energies, was to gain control over the whole energy-system of the Earth, or so Himmler believed when he ordered the escapade. With this key point under control, all should have been well for the Nazis, according to theory. But the Nazis were not able to conquer the might of Russia by magic alone. As any intelligent occultist realizes, magic is only part of the process; in most cases there must be a material back-up for the magic.

As the German military machine succumbed more and more to ever-increasing losses, and the toll of incessant air raids bit deeper into the Nazi war effort, the backing for Hitler's magical visualizations gradually withered away. Hitler, who by any normal criteria was now insane, appears to have made one last desperate magical gamble in his attempt to reverse the

inevitable. He appealed to the 'higher powers' to give him victory.

In 1942, Hitler had made the most telling statement: "If I am needed for anything, I am here because of a higher power." Now it is not certain what Hitler meant when he referred to the higher power. Sometimes he used the term 'The Lord', a title equally applicable to the Christian God, the God of the witches or even the Devil. His higher powers may have been astral entities directed by other occultists, the 'World Wise Men' of Tibetan legend, or even nonmaterial entities created over the centuries by the unconscious actions of other German occultists. Whatever these powers were, real or imaginary, Hitler seems to have attempted to conclude a pact with them.

The pact is a form of magic well known to occultists: indeed it forms the basis for the famous story of Dr Faustus. In effect, it is a magical contract. For a price, often the soul of the magician, non-human entities in the nonmaterial planes – astral beings, the Devil, the Demonic Empire, call it what we may – are supposed to provide a service. "The pact", wrote the eminent magus Arthur Waite, "is a concession to the poverty of the operator's resources. In Black Magic, as in some other processes, the necessitous must be ready to sacrifice, and the sorcerer who is insufficiendy equipped must pay a higher price in the end."

In the language of magical technology, the sacrifice is a means of releasing bio-electrical energy – Vril. Entities in need of energy can then return a little to the magical operator who has sent it them. The discharge of bio-electrical energy is a phenomenon that occurs during any drastic heightening of the emotions, from paroxysms of anger to sexual orgasm. The creation of vast seas of directed emotion, as at rock music festivals, political demonstrations or Hitler's stage-managed rallies, provides energies which may be directed at will by the adept. Blood sacrifices also provide a source of this energy.

Hitler pursued a scorched-earth policy when he finally realized that the war was lost. 300,000 Germans perished when the Berlin U-Bahn (underground railway system) was deliberately flooded on his orders. Hider said to Speer, by then his Minister of Armaments, "If the war is lost, then the nation must perish." "Losses can never be too high", raved the

Führer on another occasion, as if he were invoking higher forces for a miracle in exchange for the blood sacrifice of truly monstrous proportions. But whether or not he was invoking the Demonic Empire for assistance in his hour of need, those forces failed him. As the Red Army closed in on Berlin, a motley force of old men and teenagers, hastily gathered into a makeshift defence corps, fought a futile battle over barricades of tramcars and rubble. Hitler, cowering in the Führerbunker, planned his final exit – by his own hand.

On April 30, 1945, Hitler shot himself. His aides carried his body into the garden of the Reich Chancellery and there unceremoniously burnt it with 180 litres of petrol conserved for the purpose. The date is significant – April 30, May Eve, otherwise known as Walpurgis Night, one of the major sacrificial dates in old Germanic Paganism. It was as if Hitler had chosen this day to ensure the most favourable reincarnation possible.

As Hitler's body burned alongside that of Eva Braun, his wife of a few hours, the Red Army came across a bizarre sight: large numbers of *Tibetan* corpses, perhaps as many as a thousand. Here was the remains of the Tibetan colony in Berlin patronized by Haushofer, pressed into one final desperate defence of the forces of Agharthi amid the ruins of the empire of the 'coming race'.

Even as the Red Flag was raised upon Berlin's Brandenburg Gate, and resistance collapsed at the news of tiie Führer's suicide, the last few diehard Nazis were busy concealing their treasures for a future generation to unearth and use in founding the Fourth Reich. On May 2, 1945, a heavily-guarded SS company travelled on a special mission to an inaccessible part of the Zillertal in Austria. There, in a glacier on the Hochfeiler, 9000 feet above sea level, Nazi officials buried a leaden casket containing the holiest relics of the SS. Among these was Otto Rahn's mysterious object removed from its resting-place at Schloss Wewelsburg. At all costs the Nazis wished to prevent these relics from falling into the hands of the Allies. From its position in the glacier, the casket will emerge again between the years 1990 and 1995. Let us hope mat the relics do not fall into the wrong hands again.

As the Third Reich drew rapidly towards its final inevitable

demise, Heinrich Himmler was dismissed from office by Karl Dönitz, the new Führer. From May 6, 1945, until May 23, he wandered unnoticed amid the ruins of a shattered nation. Then, by pure chance, he was stopped by a British patrol between Bremerhaven and Hamburg. Disguised in a Private's uniform and wearing a black eye patch, he had shaved off his moustache and remained unrecognized, until, quite suddenly, he confessed his identity to the British Captain questioning him.

He was taken to Lüneburg, significandy the site of the final surrender of the German army, where, despite precautions, he crushed a suicide pill. Although desperate attempts were made to resuscitate him, they were to no avail, and he died. The date was May 23, 1945. The British authorities mutilated the corpse: his teeth were drawn to prevent identification, and Heinrich Himmler, once the most feared man in Europe, was buried in an unmarked grave somewhere on Lüneburg Heath. And that may seem the end of the story. But as I write this I find that a group has been set up to recover Himmler's body and give it a 'decent Pagan burial'. An attempt is being made to locate die body by map dowsing, and when it is found it will be identified by psychometry. The final chapter in the weird history of Nazi occultism has yet to be written.

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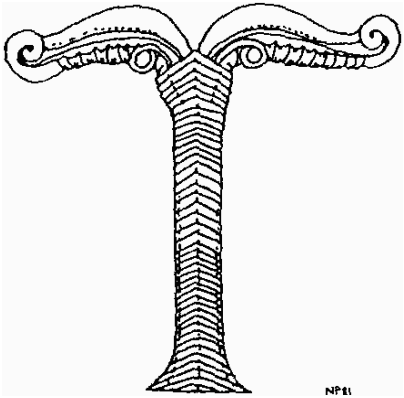
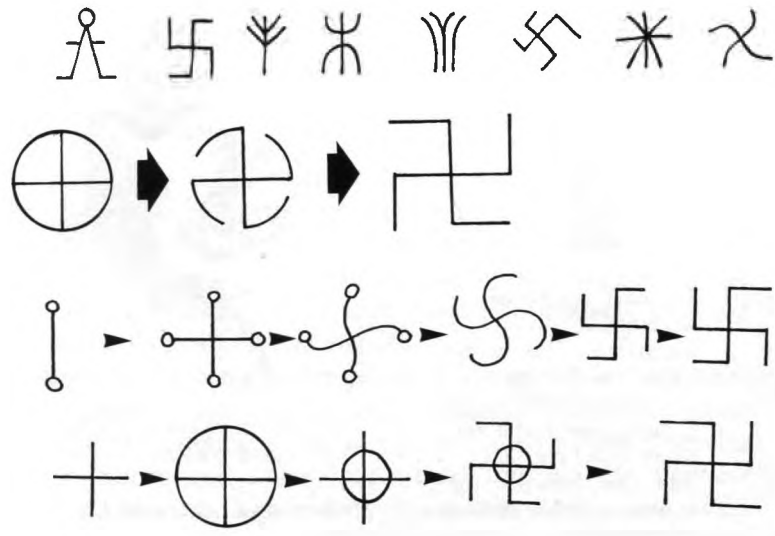


1 Irminsul, symbol of ancient German Paganism. This 'world-pillar' stood in the Teutoburger Wald until Charlemagne had it cut down in the year 772 AD. The Nazis planned to erect a replica at the Externsteine.

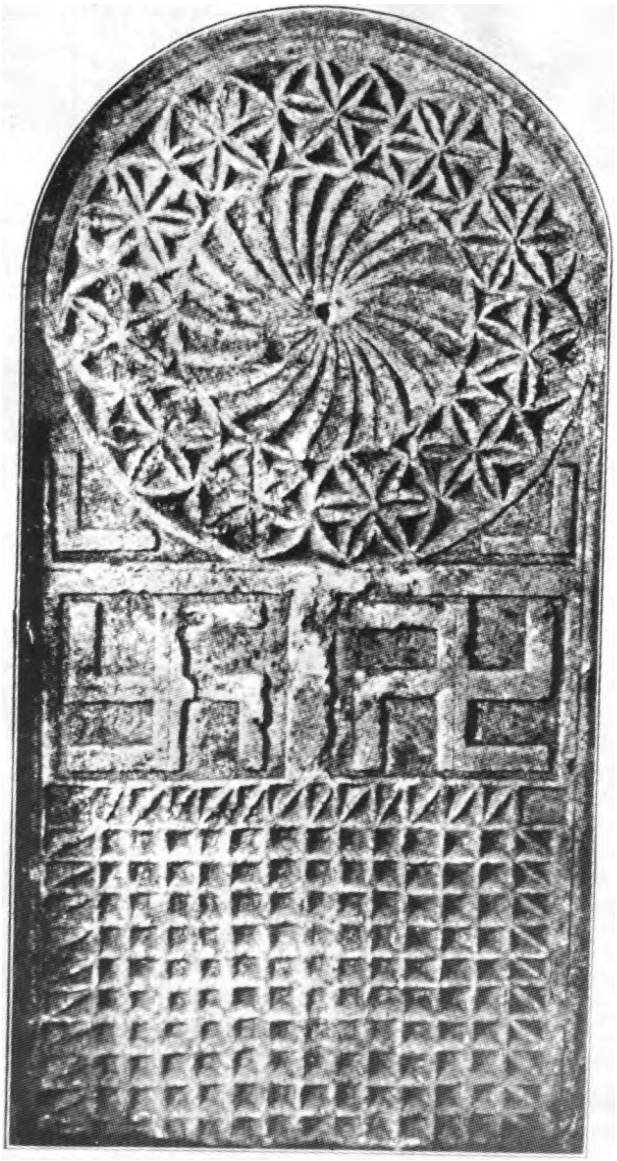
2 Dietrich Eckart, Hitler's occult mentor.

3 Ancient stone bearing runes. Pre-Christian monuments like this were the inspiration for German occult nationalists.

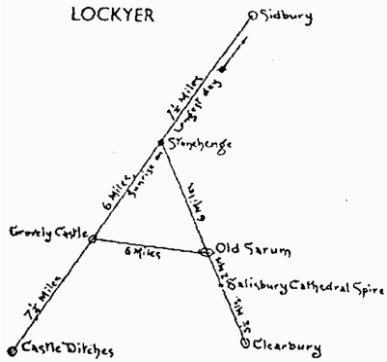


4 The evolution of the swastika: 1. Hällristningar, ancient Scandinavian rock-scribings. 2. After Rudolf Koch. 3. After Herman Wirth. 4. After James Churchward.

5 The window and altar in the Externsteine *sacellum*.

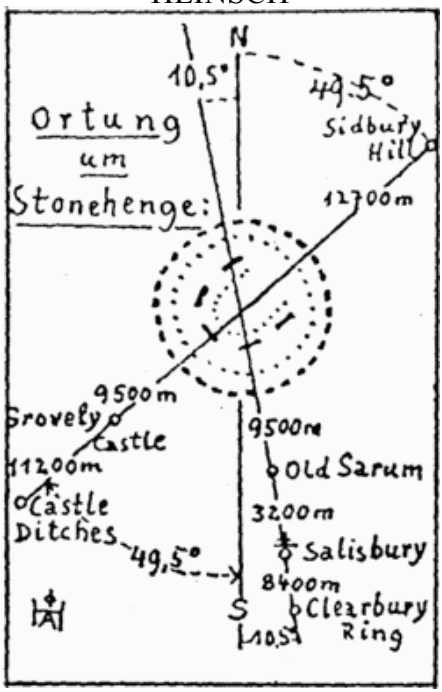


6 Swastika stone found in Spain by Ahnenerbe researchers, from a Nazi publication.



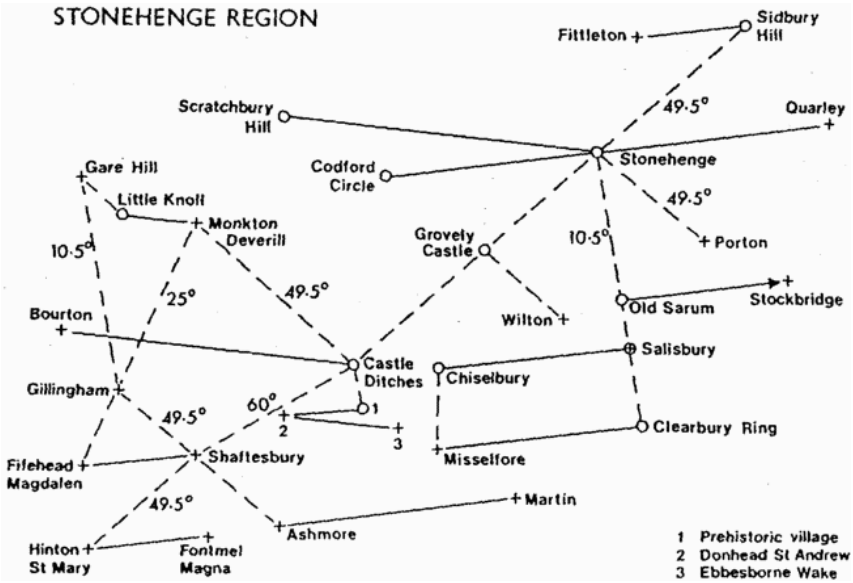
7 Sir Norman Lockyer's map of the Stonehenge alignments.

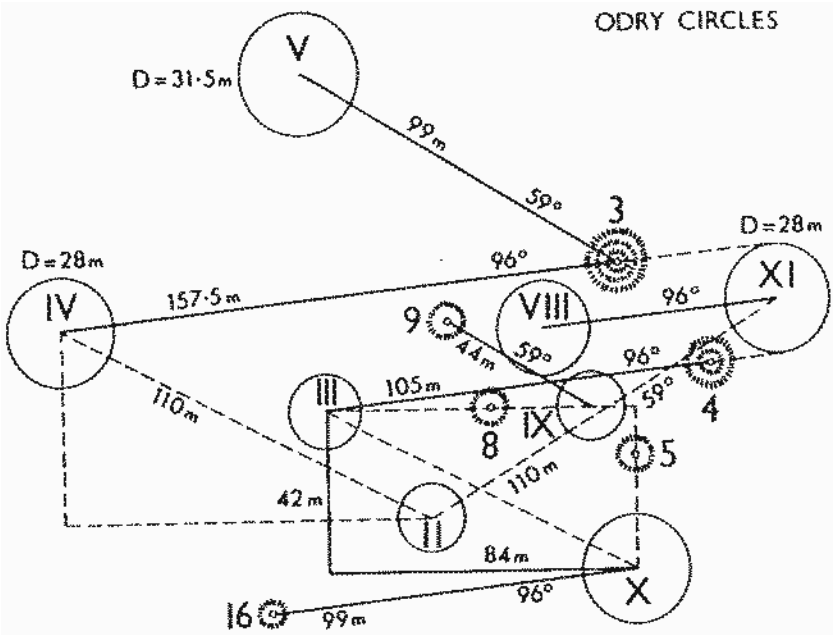
HEINSCH



8 Josef Heinsch's map of the 'orientation of Stonehenge'.

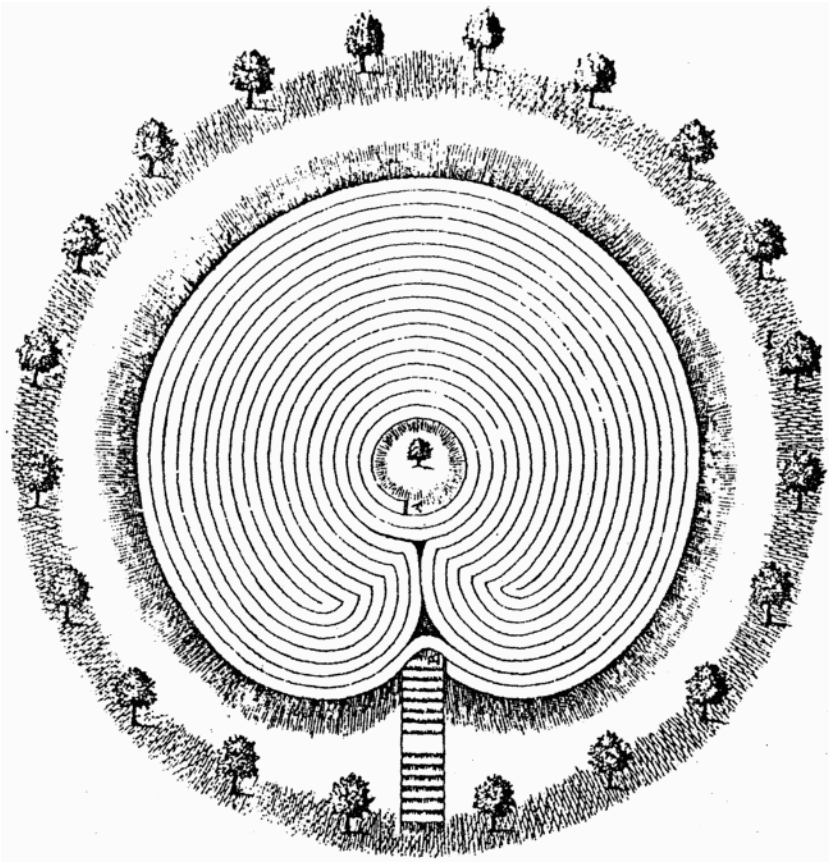
9 Josef Heinsch's ley lines and orientations in the Stonehenge Region. Map by Michael Behrend.





10 Josef Heinsch's sacred geometry of the stone circles at Odry, Czechoslovakia.

11 The ancient pagan temple at Uppsala, Sweden. Nazi geomants believed such buildings were constructed on sites of concentrated earth energies.



12 The German geomantic researcher Siegfried Sieber rediscovered this 18th Century engraving of the ancient Troy town turf maze at Stolp, Pomerania (now Slupsk, Poland), similar to the pavement labyrinths of Benedictine cathedrals.

An alle SS-Führer!

Ich schenke Ihnen diesen Jul-Leuchter. Er ist nachgebildet nach einem alten aus früher Vergangenheit unseres Volkes überkommenen Stück.

Seine Lichter sollen brennen in der Nacht der Jahreswende, nach unserem heutigen Gebrauch, vom 31. Dezember zum 1. Januar.

Das kleine Licht, das unter dem Leuchter steht, brenne als Sinnbild des zu Ende gehenden Jahres in seiner letzten Stunde.

Das große Licht flamme auf im ersten Augenblick, da das neue Jahr seinen Gang anhebt.

Es steckt eine tiefe Weisheit in dem alten Brauch.

Möge jeder SS-Mann das Flämmchen des alten Jahres reinen, sauberen Herzens verlöschen sehen und erhobenen Willens das Licht des neuen Jahres entzünden können.

Das wünsche ich Ihnen und Ihrer Sippe heute und in alle Zukunft.

Heil Hitler!

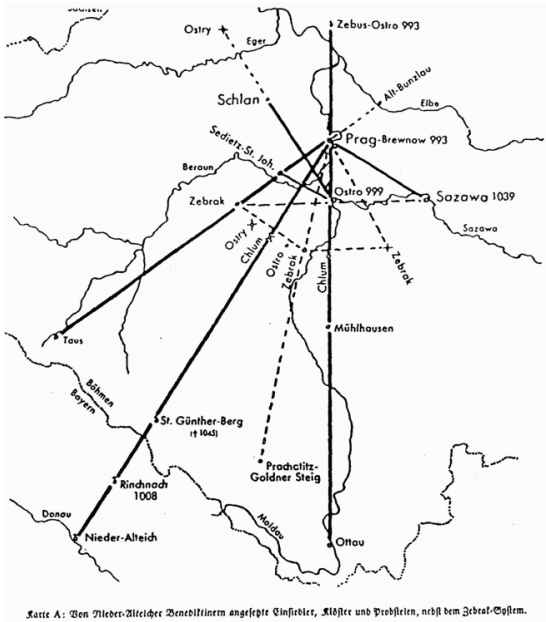
H. Himmler

Widmung des Reichsführers SS an seine SS-Führer

13 Himmler's order to all SS-leaders to observe the ritual of the Yule lights.

14 The centre of the turf maze at Kaufbeuren, just prior to a Nazi ceremony. From a Nazi publication.

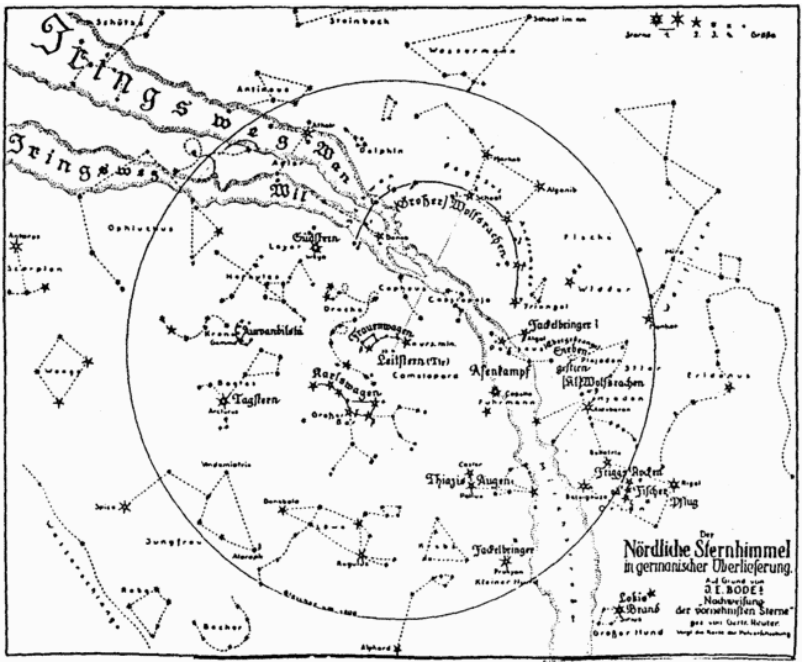
15 Hitler and his henchmen march along the Munich tramlines during the 'festival of the dead', November 9th.

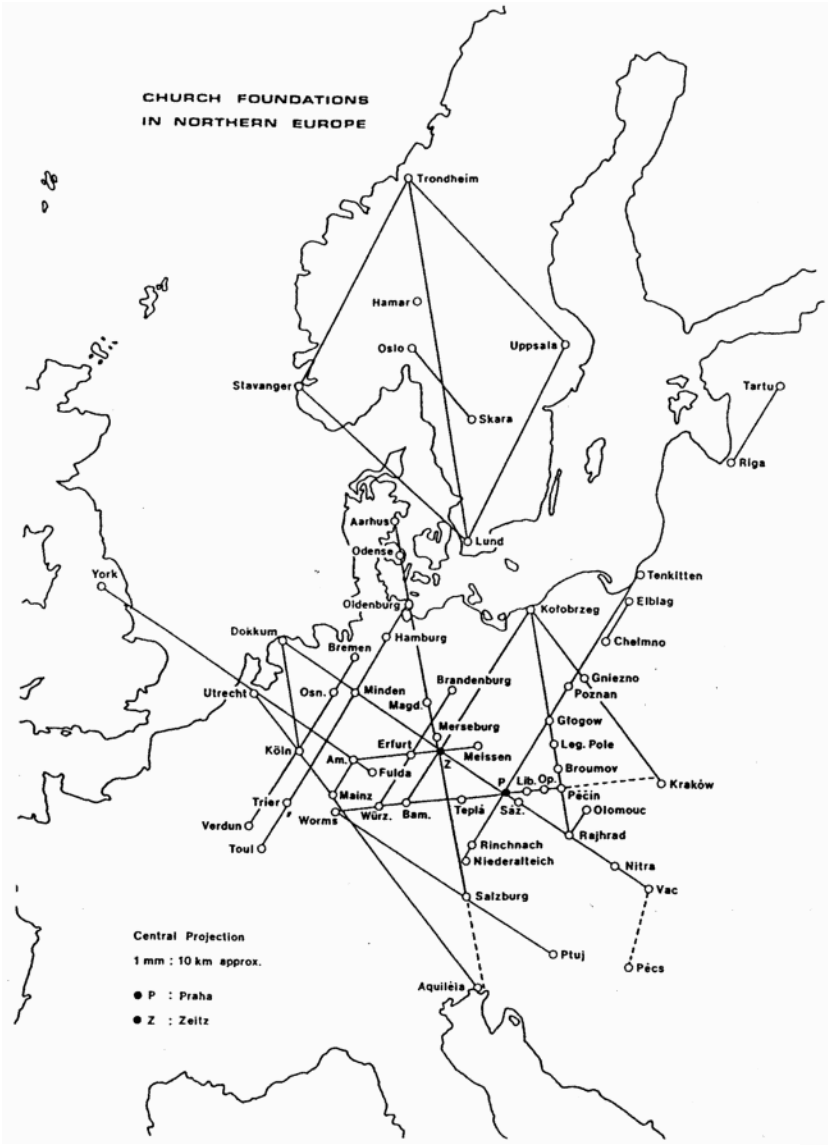


Karte A: Von Nieder-Alteicher Benediktinern angesetzte Einsiedler, Klöster und Probsteien, nebst dem Zebrak-System.

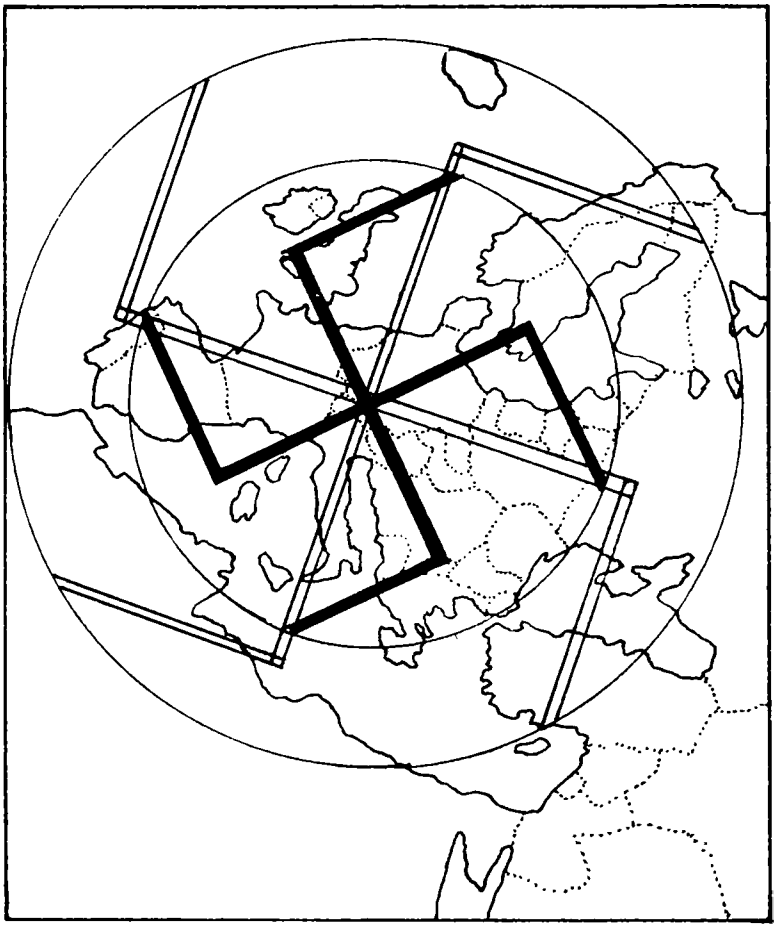
16 Gerlach's map of the ley-line System in Bohemia related to the dates of the foundation of monasteries.

17 Otto Siegfried Reuter's reconstruction of the Saxon constellations



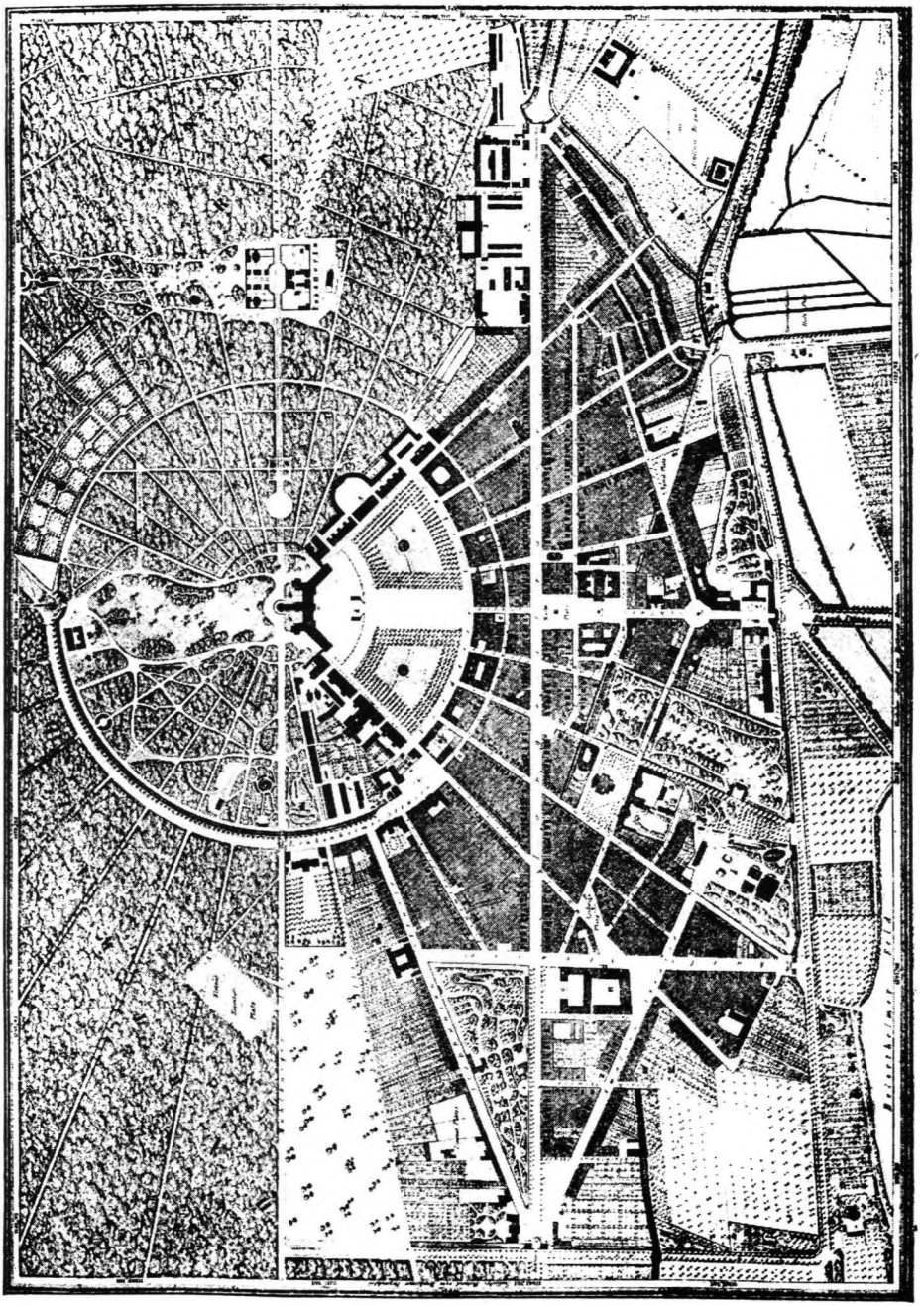


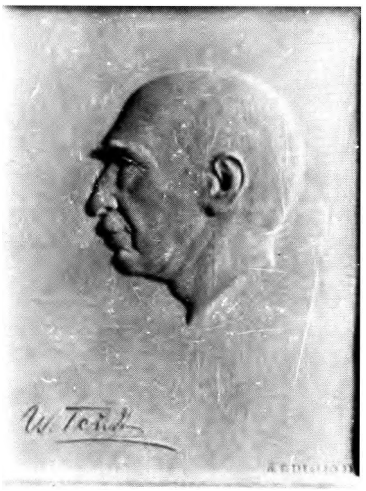
18 Gerlach's ley lines over Europe. *Map by Michael Behrend.*



19 The expanding spiral of Nazi domination as expounded by Haushofer's geo-politics.

20 The city of Karlsruhe, laid out in 1715, embodies the principles of authoritarian geomancy intended psychically to control the district. All radial roads centre on the Prince's palace where influence is concentrated.





21 Nazi plaque of Wilhelm Teudt, geomant and sometime head of the Ahnenerbe.

22 The ancient Pagan division of the compass, as reconstructed by Otto Siegfrid Reuter. Ahnenerbe researchers sought examples of this all over Northern Europe.

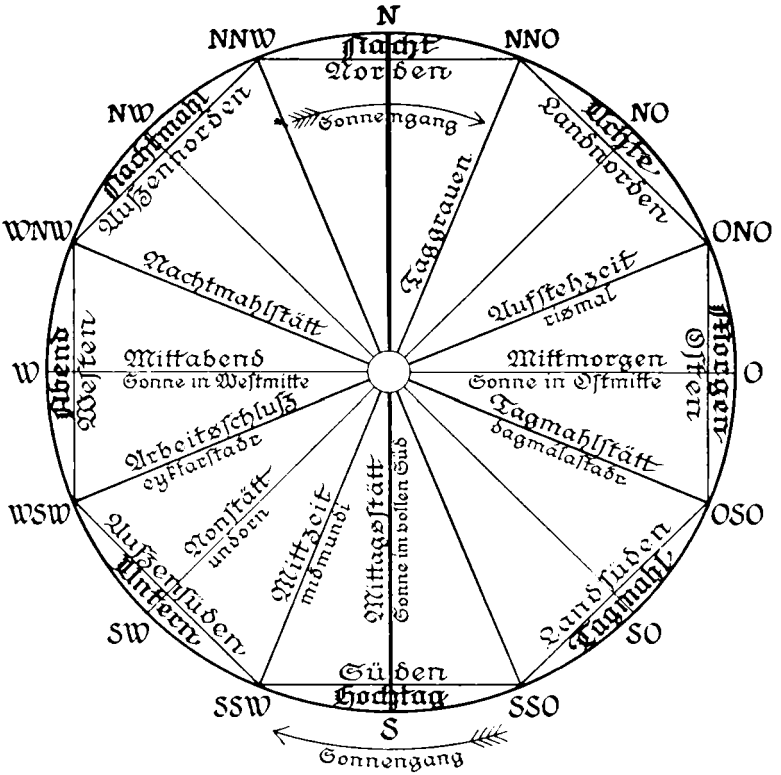
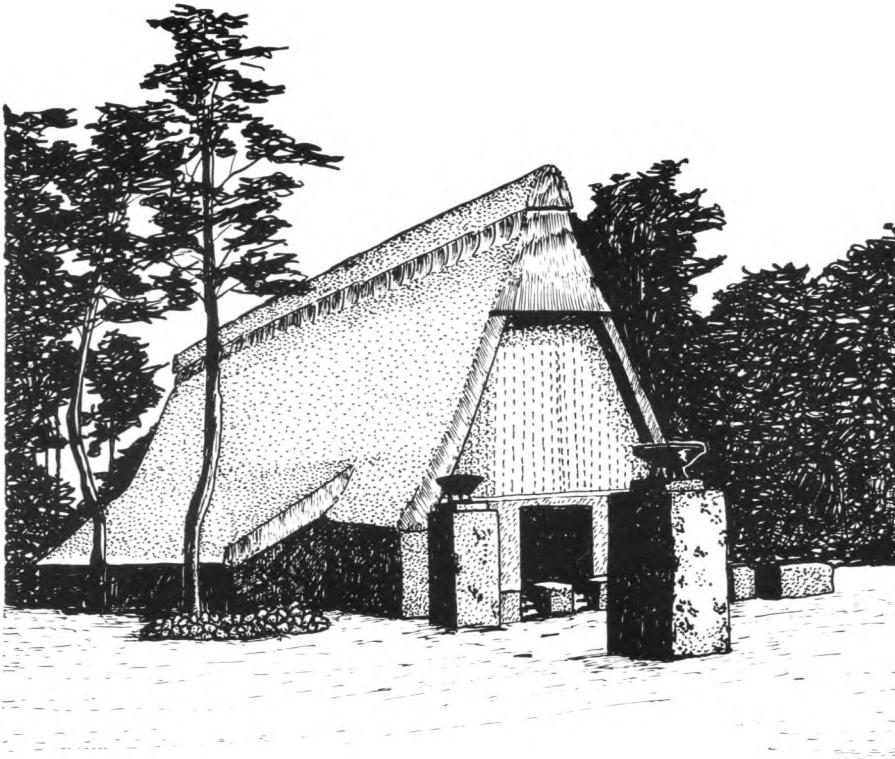


Abb. 1. „Alphabetum Gothicum" Die punktierte, jüngere skandinavische Runenreihe nach der Veröffentlichung von Johannis Magnus

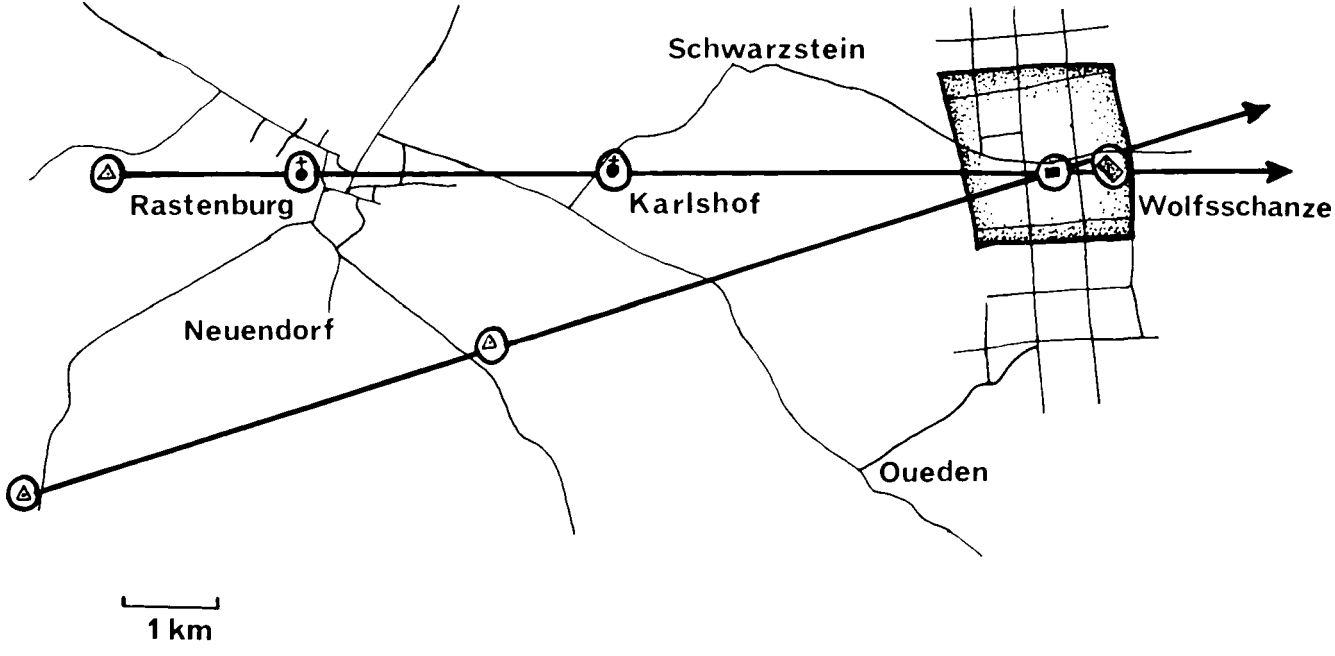
23 Ahnenerbe men collected together details of many lost and forgotten alphabets: an example from an Ahnenerbe publication.

24 An example of Allach porcelain – an urn with swastika decoration.

25 Heinrich Himmler and SS luminaries including Heydrich stand in solemn silence at the open grave of Heinrich der Vogler at Quedlinburg Cathedral, July 1937.



26 The Hitler Youth memorial 'temple' on the Island of Rügen in the Baltic.



27 Geomantic layout of Hitler's headquarters at Rastenburg in East Prussia: the Wolfsschanze (Fort Wolf) on the intersection of two ley lines.